

YUKON KUSKOKWIM DELTA ALASKA FEDERAL
SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

VOLUME II

Bethel, Alaska
October 11, 2002
9:00 o'clock a.m.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Nick Andrew, Sr.
James A. Charles
Mary Gregory
John Hanson, Sr.
Billy McCann
Phillip Moses
John B. Thompson, Sr.
Thadius Tikium
Lester Wilde

Regional Council Coordinator, Alex Nickl

P R O C E E D I N G S

(Bethel, Alaska - 10/11/2002)

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Good morning.

MS. GREGORY: Can you guys sit down and please don't carry on your conversation while we are talking up here, it's very disruptive.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Go ahead, Mary.

MS. GREGORY: If you need to talk to somebody, can you do it in the hallway so you don't disturb us because when you're trying to think really hard it's really disruptive to hear other people talking even though we may not seem we're watching, we are.

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: This morning we going to hold back a couple items on our agenda. Customary trade, we're going to have announcement radio station that we going to work on customary trade 1:00 o'clock this afternoon. And also No. 12 on our agenda, Lower Kuskokwim resource planning Mike Reardon is supposed to handle this so we going to -- after he come in so this time that agenda we will be starting on XIII agency reports, Councils, you guys will find that on Tab G. Who will handle that agencies, organizations report, Office of Subsistence Management?

MR. RIVARD: Good morning, Mr. Chair, Council members. My name is Don Rivard. I'm with the Office of Subsistence Management. I'm the division chief for the three Councils along the Yukon and Kuskokwim Rivers, including the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Regional Council.

I'm going to be talking to you this morning about Regional Councils FACA compliance. We've got some things that have happened in the recent past so here's a briefing on that. If you go to Tab G in your book, Page 227 you'll see something called Regional Advisory Councils and the topic touches on the review of Regional Council composition with regards to compliance with FACA.

Earlier this year, you received a copy of the letter from the Department of the Interior. The letter is now referred to as the Griles' letter as it came from Secretary Steven Griles. It spoke to departmental concerns about the membership balance of the Regional Advisory Councils. The Councils are subject to the requirements of the Federal Advisory Committee Act referred to as FACA. FACA requires the membership of an advisory committee to be fairly balanced in terms of points of view represented and the functions to be performed by the advisory committee.

The Department asked the Federal Subsistence Board to review procedures used to select members for the Councils.

Recently, the Chair of the Federal Subsistence Board, Mitch Demientieff, was interviewed by the Alaska Public Radio Network. He

stated that the Regional Councils have been very successful and well accepted throughout the state. He added that, as with any program, there can always be room for improvement.

The Board recently completed its proposed changes to the Council composition and you received a copy of the August 26th letter from the Board to Mr. Griles and the report which explains the changes in depth. On September 17th our office, Office of Subsistence Management received a letter from Mr. Griles which stated that the Board's recommendations are to be implemented without delay. He said that the Board's recommendations will strengthen the program to the benefit of all residents of Alaska.

Changes approved by the Office of the Secretary are the following: There'll be an increased membership on most Councils. The Yukon/Kuskokwim Delta and Southcentral Councils will increase their membership from 11 and seven respectively to 13 for each Council. The Southeast Council will remain at 13. The remaining Councils will increase their membership to 10. Larger Councils will allow additional opportunities for representation of other directly affected interests, recreational, sport and commercial uses that have a direct and legitimate interest in subsistence allocations.

A change in the Council composition. Councils will have designated seats. 70 percent for representatives of subsistence interests and 30 percent for representatives of recreational, sport and commercial interests.

For the seven Councils with 10 members, three seats will be designated to recreational, sport and commercial interests, seven to subsistence users. One of the designated seats will represent of the three, recreational sport and commercial interests, one of the designated seats will represent commercial interests, such as guides, transporters, commercial fishers or hunters and one seat will represent recreational and sport interest and one seat will represent either interest.

On the three Councils with 13 members, four seats will be designated recreational, sport, commercial interest. For example, your Council right now has 11 members and under the proposed changes the membership will increase to 13. Of these, nine seats will represent subsistence interests, four will represent recreational sports interest and/or commercial interests.

All Council members will continue to be residents of their Council region as required by Title VIII of ANILCA. All members must be knowledgeable about subsistence uses of fish and wildlife within the region. Council members may either be rural or non-rural residents of their respective regions.

Now the issue of alternates. Some Councils have alternates and this is one of the Councils that does, as a way to assure obtaining a quorum. Alternates will be allowed to complete their terms but alternates will be discontinued in future years. So this Council here will end up with 13 members and all of you will be regular members, there will be no more alternates on the YK Council.

The nomination and application, evaluation and selection process. The report that accompanied the August 26th letter explains changes to the nominations process and I won't address them here.

The implementation of the new make up of these Councils. These changes will be phased in over the next three years beginning with the application and nomination process in 2003. Full implementation of the new composition of the Councils will be complete in 2006.

That's the end of my briefing, I'd be glad to entertain any questions or comments you may have.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any questions from Councils.

MR. CHARLES: Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: James.

MR. CHARLES: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So when Council members are increased to 13, we are required to represent subsistence and some of us represent commercial or is that why it's going to be increased or so we are going to be assigned to subsistence, commercial and others?

MR. BOYD: Mr. Chair. Mr. Charles. I'm Tom Boyd. I'm with the Office of Subsistence Management. When people are asked to -- when your seats expire this time and when you're asked to reapply, you will be designating on the application form the interest that you represent, whether it be subsistence, commercial or recreational. There will be a place to check on the form. And then the goal will be, over the next three years, starting in 2003, that we will attain the balance, the split between 70 percent subsistence and 30 percent other interest being represented on the Council. So each year we will be kind of working toward the goal of getting the balance the way that we've been directed to do.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any other question from Councils.
John Hanson.

MR. HANSON: Yeah, thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yeah, Tom, I filled out a application, it was some time either April and sent it in and I haven't heard nothing if I'm still on the Board, but I'm sitting here so maybe I'm still on the Board. But I haven't heard anything of any approval for my position or -- what's -- I guess a lot of members have filled out their -- wondering why they never hear from the office in Anchorage what the status is.

MR. BOYD: Mr. Chair. Mr. Hanson, you still are on the Board. You are still on the Regional Advisory Council. As a result of the review that Mr. Rivard briefed you on just a minute ago we had to delay

the selection process this year. However, the delay did not jeopardize any of the current status of the current members. We have now resumed that process. If you'll remember a year or so ago we changed the charters to allow extra time for selection because we were being delayed by problems in Washington, you know, appointments come from the Secretary of the Interior and sometimes that takes a long time when we submit the names to Washington. So now your seats expire, I think it's the end of the year so we have until the end of this year to renew the seats so you're still a member until the end of the year. We are -- that's the end of December. So we are now working on those applications. The Board actually -- the Federal Subsistence Board will be addressing those applications this next Thursday and then we will be formulating recommendations that will go to the Secretary of the Interior soon thereafter. And hopefully by the end of the year we will have the appointments made. At least before the next meeting which is in February and March.

We've been working very closely with the Office of the Secretary on these issues. And the Secretary Special Assistant for Alaska issues in Washington is Drew Pearce and her office has been very good about pushing those names -- these packages, these names through to get approval so we've kind of overcome the problems that we've had in the past with regard to getting approvals by the Secretary and so I anticipate we will have no problems getting approvals before the next meetings.

MS. GREGORY: Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Go ahead, Mary.

MS. GREGORY: You said that the nine people will be representing the subsistence people and four will be from other, can you explain which other and where they're coming from, the four extra people?

MR. BOYD: All members, including the four must live in the region. They must be residents of the region. And they will represent commercial and/or recreational interests. In other words they could be guides, they could be commercial fishermen, they could be just people who sportfish, say, and not subsistence fish or they could be recreational hunt rather than subsistence hunting. I don't know who they are. We will have to wait for the application process to determine that.

But they are people who live in the region. They cannot be from Anchorage or Fairbanks or anywhere else.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Other questions from Councils. Before we go to the next item, I think I try to -- I'm going to try to catch up this agenda we have. I started a little bit too early because I didn't see Mike Reardon, he's supposed to be up but instead of go back and forth I'm going to -- I'm going to start from Mike this time, Lower Kuskokwim resource planning -- I call you two back after -- okay, Mike.

MR. REARDON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And I've also got Joe Spader with me to talk about this issue and there was supposed to be an agenda change that we proposed earlier and hopefully it was on there. I think the way we're going to do this, we're talking about some planning

efforts we're doing on fisheries research and I think what we'll do is go with Joe first because he's kind of covering the larger planning effort and then I'll talk about the local Kuskokwim management efforts after that, if that's all right?

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah, go ahead.

MR. SPADER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. My name is Joe Spader and I work with Bering Sea Fishermen's Association and with a large set of fisheries partners who are working together, State, Federal, Native Partner organizations who are working together to improve and expand the research on Western Alaska salmon stocks.

As you all know, the Western Alaska salmon stocks, Norton Sound, Yukon, Kuskokwim area have been in decline for a decade resulting in subsistence restrictions, commercial closures and a lot of hardships for communities in the region. Many scientists don't understand -- scientists are not clear about why the stocks have declined, whether the declines are the cause of natural factor or human and whether the declines are mostly because of the marine lifecycle of the salmon or freshwater. And then there was concern about un-coordination between research between State, Federal, academic and a variety of organizations.

So a set of partners came together including AVCP, Kawarek, Tanana Chiefs and the Bering Sea Fishermen's Association and began to work with the commissioners office of Alaska Department of Fish and Game to get new Congressional funding for salmon research in the region. And we were able to, by working together to get a \$5 million appropriation with the help of Senator Stevens in 2002 and following that, we added these other additional Federal partners and created the Arctic/ Yukon/Kuskokwim Sustainable Salmon Initiative.

We also have a number of ex-officio fisheries partners including Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association Kuskokwim Native Association, Council of Athabascan Tribal Governments as well as a number of other Federal agencies, BLM, Park Service, BIA, USGS, BRD, what's different about this is this is the broadest fisheries coalition ever to come together to work on fisheries partners so that's part of the reason the National Marine Fisheries Service is there. They can help with marine research which is where 70 to 80 percent of the life of these salmon are spent. And working together to build capacity and to work cooperatively in fisheries research, both in fresh water and in marine systems.

And one of the first things -- I should also mention John -- Dr. John White is the chair of the steering committee for this organization. One of the first things that we're doing is undertaking comprehensive research planning for the whole -- for Norton Sound, Yukon River, Kuskokwim and the Bering Sea region and this has not been undertaken at this scale before, especially since it's crossing freshwater and marine systems and so we're working to try to identify where the key research gaps are. What the high priority research projects are and also to look back to

-- kind of a broad view of the existing knowledge that's about salmon in these regions.

But the whole goal of this initiative is to improve sustainable salmon management for the Yukon/Kuskokwim and Norton Sound.

So this is the broader planning effort that will involve both Alaska scientists and outside scientists to try to develop the best plan and in order to do that, since this is such a large region this Arctic/Yukon/Kuskokwim region is approximately half the state of Alaska is included plus the Bering Sea we're working with local partners such as the Kuskokwim Fisheries Resources Coalition which Mr. Reardon will be talking about. And we're also working with YRDFA and the Joint Technical Committee, they're developing a subregional plan for the Yukon River and then we're working with partners in Norton Sound.

So by working with partners in each of the drainages, and then this initiative puts together the whole planning effort, so I wanted to give you kind of a broad overview of what's coming.

In addition to the five million for salmon research in 2002 we're listed in the Senate Appropriations Bill for renewal of five million new dollars to support salmon research in Western Alaska. So Mike will talk about how the Kuskokwim planning process fits into this process as a collaborative research planning effort that involves all the key stakeholders.

Thank you.

MR. REARDON: Mr. Chairman. This is Mike Reardon. I'm the Refuge manager for the Yukon-Delta Refuge. However, today I'm representing the Kuskokwim Fisheries Resource Coalition. It's a group that we put together about two and a half years ago and it consists of representatives from KNA, AVCP, ONC and McGrath Native Village, Fish and Wildlife Service, Fish and Game, Bering Sea Fishermen's Association and we work closely or we will be working closely with the Kuskokwim Salmon management working group.

And what it was is we saw an opportunity to apply for funding from Office of Subsistence Management for a lot of projects on the Kuskokwim River and rather than everybody independently submitting applications to get funding for a weir or some kind of a subsistence monitoring effort in villages we thought it would be more appropriate for all of us to work together and submit the proposals under one name as the KFRC is the name we came up with and then work cooperatively on this projects. And it's worked very well.

We've submitted these proposals and subsistence fairly readily funded a lot of them and we've been working cooperatively with Fish and Game, a lot of the different Native organizations along the river and it's our intent to continue to do our business this way on the Kuskokwim. One of the things that we soon realize is that we didn't know enough about what the research needs were on the Kuskokwim River And realized that we needed to have a planning effort so that we could -- when it comes down to submitting proposals, should we put in money for another weir on another river or should we do another project that's going to be the most benefit to

the fish and to the resource users out here. So we have decided rather than continue to keep applying for funding for different projects is to kind of sit back and talk amongst ourselves and go to all of the communities along the entire Kuskokwim River, all the way from Eek to Medfra, you know, along the entire Kuskokwim River and find out what people think are the most important research needs that we should address and then start trying to apply for funding to get those things done.

So we're in that process right now and we've agreed that the process we use for this planning on what we want to do on the Kuskokwim is going to fit inside of the plan that Joe is talking about that kind of covers the entire, pretty much Western Alaska. The Kuskokwim has never been funded very well for anything when it comes to fisheries and it's never been funded for a planning effort and that's probably the first thing we should be trying to do is try to plan what we're going to do before we just embark on all of these projects.

So we have gone to the group that Joe is dealing with, the AY-K group and requested funding from them and we've requested money from Office of Subsistence Management and we're going to also get funding from all of the partners that are in this as much as they can afford to initiate this planning effort for the next year. We're hoping to start that project if we can get the funding sometime in January -- December or January, I think would be the earliest we could get started on it.

That's about it. I just wanted to make you aware of that effort that we have in place and we're going to try to improve the quality of the work and the amount of work that we're doing on the Kuskokwim River for fisheries.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Councils, do you guys have a question for Mike and Randy?

MR. SPADER: Joe.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: What?

MR. SPADER: Joe Spader.

MS. GREGORY: (In Yup'ik)

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Joe.

MS. GREGORY: Mr. Chairman, I have a question for Mr. Joe.

(Laughter)

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Go ahead, Mary.

MS. GREGORY: You said that you were looking for monies and the five million, did you have that already or you're just now getting it?

MR. SPADER: Thank you, Mary. We -- through the efforts of Senator Stevens, in last year's Federal budget we received an

earmark of \$5 million to devote specifically to Western Alaska salmon stocks. And, again, because the Senator's office has been very encouraged by the cooperative nature, they've never seen such a broad based coalition focusing on fisheries. They've been very supportive and they've included a request -- and earmark for \$5 million more for 2003. So that won't occur until whenever a bill is passed but we currently have five million towards this effort and are hoping for a renewal.

Thank you.

MS. GREGORY: How did you use that five million or are you keeping it in the bank?

MR. SPADER: That funding is governed by a seven member steering committee chaired by Dr. White and one of the first things that that initiative is doing, they have a period of five years in which to spend that \$5 million. The steering committee is beginning by working to undertake research planning for this region. And beginning in December of this year they'll offer a request for proposals so they'll fund projects this winter in order to get them in the water by next spring. So it will be spent over a period of five years. And again, the research projects will begin this year.

MS. GREGORY: Okay, I'm interested in what proposals from whom?

MR. SPADER: The research proposals would be received from State, Federal, academic organizations, many of the same kinds of organizations that apply to Fisheries Information Service for funds we anticipate coming here for fund to the AY-K sustainable salmon initiative.

One key difference is that since there are many questions about the majority of the salmon's life which they spend in the ocean, agencies and researchers who want to do marine research on salmon are also eligible for these funds, unlike Fisheries Information Service funds which cannot be used directly for marine research.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: John Hanson.

MR. HANSON: Yeah, thank you, Mr. Chairman. These partners that you have like Association of Village Council Presidents, on your assessments, do they take samples of the scales and all that or they don't?

MR. SPADER: Mr. Hanson, in the research, we haven't yet begun to fund research from this \$5 million fund but projects such as weir projects or mark and recapture projects that would get funded they would do -- undertake very standard scientific methods including taking scale samples if projects were funded for that purpose. But this is a new fund and so we haven't yet funded projects that are in the water collecting data yet. We'll be beginning that process here in December through March. But we anticipate that they would follow standard fisheries science protocols including taking scale samples.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Other questions from Councils.

MR. SPADER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

MR. REARDON: Thank you.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Now, we'll go back to our agencies reports. Next one, review of Advisory Councils FACA.

MR. KRON: Tom and Don did that one so we're down to this one, statewide rural.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Oh, okay. Don.

MR. RIVARD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Don Rivard with the Office of Subsistence Management. We did number A1 already, the review of Regional Advisory Council composition for compliance with FACA and we're now on statewide rural determinations.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah, go ahead.

MR. RIVARD: I want to give you an update on that, on what's happening. I'll refer you to Tab G, Page 229, in there there's a fact sheet on the rural determinations.

Title VIII of ANILCA requires that subsistence priority for rural residents as we all know. And when the Federal Subsistence Management Program began in 1990, the Federal Subsistence Board made rural determinations and those are in place right now, which villages and cities are rural, which locations are non-rural, those kind of things.

The Federal subsistence regulations require a review of these determinations every 10 years after a US census is done and there was one done in the year 2000. Thus, with the census data now compiled it is time to review the original rural determinations.

Additionally, in the late 1990s, our office and the Board received requests to explore the methods that were used to determine which communities are considered rural and non-rural. The Federal Subsistence Board decided that we should have a competitive process to review the rural determination methodology and subsequently hired the University of Alaska at Anchorage, Institute of Social and Economic Research, also known as ISER and also as part of that, Dr. Robert Wolfe and Associates were hired to develop the scientific methods used to make rural determinations.

To date, ISER has conducted a literature review. They have performed some statistical assessments of the community to determine the best measures to qualify communities as either rural or non-rural. They've also visited eight areas in Alaska and held some focus groups which was used to ask people what they believe rural or non-rural characteristics are and what would be widely accepted. These focus groups also included some tribal entities as well.

Now, ISER will be submitting their final report month, November 2002. And with that report they will have one or two -- at least two proposed methodologies on how to determine rural and non-rural. The Federal Subsistence Board has already scheduled a meeting in January, it'd be January 14th and 15th. One of those days is going to be taking up customary trade issues and the other day will be just this rural determination so it will be a review of the ISER report and that and also at that meeting they'll decide which methodology they will use or plan to use. In February and March of 2003, during your next round of meetings, you'll get a chance to review the methodology that the Board has selected and be able to make your own recommendations and provide input to the Board as to what you think about this methodology.

In May of 2003, the Board is going to make a final decision on the methodology that they will use to determine rural and non-rural. From June 2003 through May 2004, the new methodology will be used in analyzing the 2000 census data and other relevant data from Alaska communities. And then in May 2004, the Board is going to make their final decisions -- final determinations on rural versus non-rural communities.

Thank you, Mr. Chair. That's the conclusion of my briefing.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah, thank you. Council, do you guys have a question for him.

MS. GREGORY: I have a question Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mary.

MS. GREGORY: On your ISER, developing these methods. I'd like to know what villages were visited, which villages to determine whether they're rural or non-rural?

MR. RIVARD: Well, the villages -- I can tell you where they held their eight focus groups, if that's what you're asking but they didn't go there to determine whether these villages are rural or non-rural. They just went there to hold some meetings with a few people to just have a discussion on what they -- the local people thought about what types of characteristics of communities ought to be considered when determining whether a community ought to be considered rural or non-rural.

MS. GREGORY: What method was used in determining? They went to certain areas, that's what the report says.

MR. RIVARD: Yes, Mr. Chair. Ms. Gregory, maybe I'm not making myself real clear. ISER went to these eight different communities during their research, during this last year and they held meetings with a small group of people to get their ideas and input, the methodology has not been selected yet, at least, it's not been made public. That will be made public next month when ISER releases its final report. So

all they're doing right now is coming up with a methodology for determining for applying to determine whether communities are going to be considered rural or non-rural but ISER, itself, will not make those determinations, that's left up to the Federal Subsistence Board.

MS. GREGORY: My question is, what Alaska areas did they go to? Did they go to Anchorage, Sitka or where did they have their meetings?

MR. RIVARD: Yeah, they went to Sitka. They held one in Fairbanks but they brought in people from both the Western Interior and Eastern Interior regions, subsistence regions for that meeting. I thought I had a list here of the communities that they went to. I don't remember all the communities, the eight communities. But they try to do a mixture of -- and I think the only major urban area was Fairbanks that they went to.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Other questions from Councils. Thank you.

MR. RIVARD: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Next is Partners for Fisheries Monitoring, introduce AVCP partners program staff -- oh, you run away from me, uh?

(Laughter)

MR. KRON: Mr. Chairman, I'll be giving the lead off on the Partners for Fisheries Monitoring Program presentation. My name is Tom Kron from the Office of Subsistence Management. And you can find the one page briefing on Page 231 under Tab G in your notebook. And also AVCP and Kuskokwim Native Association representatives, I believe are here in the audience and we'd like them to provide their perspectives as well.

Just a little bit of general information, it's a brand new program. I think we've given you some initial information on it. I was asked on a temporary basis this summer to help start up the program. But we currently have a number of partners and people are moving ahead on it and we wanted to give you a briefing.

The intent of the Partners Program is to help rural and Alaska Native organizations hire their own fisheries biologists and social scientists. These new Staff will assist rural and Alaska Native organizations to collect and share information about subsistence fishery harvest and fish populations. These partners positions will work to ensure the success of studies already funded in the Fishery Resource Monitoring Program that Mr. Schleusner talked to you about yesterday.

About a year ago there was a call for proposals that went out statewide asking for organizations that were interested in participating to submit proposals to the Office of Subsistence Management for the partners program. There were quite a number of proposals that were

received, there was a review process last winter and then in May, the Board of Fisheries -- or excuse me, the Federal Subsistence Board selected seven of those proposals for funding. Those proposals are described there in the middle of the page. The successful proponents included the Association of Village Council Presidents, they were awarded a fishery biologist position for the Kuskokwim and a fisheries biologist position for the Yukon, so they have two fishery biologist positions. They also have support on the social scientist side based on their proposal, two tenths of social scientist for the Yukon and one tenth for the Kuskokwim. The Bristol Bay Native Association is also receiving a fishery biologist position as is the Council of Athabascan Tribal Governments at Fort Yukon, the Kuskokwim Native Association. The Native Village of Eyak submitted a proposal for a social scientist position and they have hired now a person for that position. And Tanana Chiefs Conference has also received a fisheries biologist position.

So basically under the Partners program, the successful proposals include six fisheries biologist positions and one social scientist position that are full-time positions and then these part-time social scientist positions for the Association of Village Council Presidents.

I guess I want to make it real clear, these positions, for example the two fisheries biologist positions with AVCP, they're AVCP employees. The funding for this is coming from the Office of Subsistence Management but these are AVCP employees. We've worked out cooperative agreements with each of these organizations including AVCP and Kuskokwim Native Association, for example, that have responsibilities for both the Fish and Wildlife Service and the Partner organization, in this case, AVCP and Kuskokwim Native Association. We're in this together, you know, we jointly are going to work to make it a success but the intent is to provide positions so that these organizations can engage in the fisheries scientist and social scientist arena more fully.

The Partners agreements are for five years but they are contingent upon funding on an annual basis and also performance. There will be an annual review of the performance of each of these cooperative agreements.

I guess in closing, a few general comments and then again, I would like to give Kuskokwim Native Association and Association of Village Council Presidents representatives a chance to speak as well. These positions will work to plan and conduct fishery monitoring studies and subsistence fishery harvest assessments. They'll work to provide technical support and coordination of subsistence fishery monitoring activities. They'll work to identify subsistence issues. They'll work to conduct community outreach, training and education. And again, I think they'll work very closely with this Regional Council in this area and the other Regional Councils.

I guess a quick summary, for the Yukon, with the spread of proposals that were successful, there's a fisheries biologist

position with AVCP, another one with TCC, another one with Council of Athabascan Tribal Governments out of Fort Yukon, so three fisheries biologist positions in these rural Native organizations representing and helping on the Yukon.

On the Kuskokwim fishery biologist positions with AVCP and with Kuskokwim Native Association. And then again the three-tenths of a social scientist position also representing out of AVCP but for the Yukon/Kuskokwim, for both of these rivers these organizations have signed an agreement to work together to represent the interests of the people along the river and the resources that migrate from the mouth all the way up to their spawning grounds. So there was a real effort to coordinate and cooperate among these organizations.

So basically 5.3 positions for the Yukon and Kuskokwim in the first round of proposals.

It's expected that there will be future opportunities for people to submit proposals and be involved but again, the intent is to try to build capacity, build involvement in these rural Native organizations.

One part of the process is to include funding for student interns, basically to start to provide opportunities for your youth, our youth to become more involved to pursue their education, to become future scientists working on these kind of issues. So that's a part of the funding as well.

Currently there's approximately \$900,000 in funding that's being put to the Partners program. And again, as noted, a big chunk of this is going to the Yukon and Kuskokwim to support the needs here and build these organizations.

So with that I'd like to ask if -- Dave, is Jennifer here or someone else from AVCP -- okay, come on up. Again, these are AVCP and Kuskokwim Native Association have both submitted proposals, they were successful in getting funding. We worked real hard this summer on cooperative agreements -- we currently have cooperative agreements in place for all seven of these partner agreements.

Dave is the Partners hire for Kuskokwim Native Association and I'd ask him if he had a few words and Ben Greene from AVCP also is involved with the selection process there. AVCP is still recruiting for the two positions that they have.

Go ahead.

MR. CANNON: Hello, Mr. Chairman, members of the Council. My name is Dave Cannon, as Tom said. And I recently was hired up in Aniak to work with KNA as a fish biologist. And the things that I've been doing since I've been up there, helping Wayne Morgan who is the natural

resource director with many of the fisheries cooperative projects that are going on in that region and some of those, George River weir, the Tatlawiksuk weir salmon enumeration projects and then those are in cooperation with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

I've worked with the Fish and Wildlife Service with a weir project that they have on Whitefish Lake. They're monitoring movements of whitefish in and out of that lake and I've also worked with the State on the large mark and recapture effort going on up there in the Kalskag Birch Creek crossing area.

And the way I see my position there is to provide some fishery expertise and definitely help Wayne Morgan who, up to this point has dealt -- he deals with moose issues, fisheries issues and has just so many things that he's had to deal with. Hiring people, technicians for all of these different projects that are going on. And so I think that's a big part of the Partners program as well as information and education gathering the data that we've collected on these projects and going to the local people and explaining, you know, first of all why is this project necessary, what type of information is being collected and how is that information being used.

And Tom mentioned the internship program which KNA has had an internship program with high school students for several years now which has been very productive. Many of those students who have come through the internship program are right now, actually working on our -- some of those projects I've talked about.

And one of the things that I've noticed since I've been there in the short time, KNA is just very excited to basically have their own biologist. It's something they've wanted for a long time.

And from a capacity building standpoint, one of the things that KNA decided to do here this year, all of the technicians that worked on the different projects this summer are going to attend -- there's a statewide professional fisheries society meeting here in Girdwood at the end of this month and KNA decided to send pretty much all eight of the technicians who work there this summer to that meeting and I think that's just going to be a real good opportunity for those technicians to look and really see what the fisheries arena in the state of Alaska is and they'll make a lot of professional contacts and other contacts with similar technicians to where they can hopefully maybe make a decision to pursue, you know, a full-time career in natural resources.

So that's pretty much what I have.

MR. GREENE: Mr. Chairman, other Council members. I had a chance to introduce myself briefly yesterday and following in the footsteps of two very articulate people I almost feel as though I don't have too much to add.

AVCP, like KNA is in the midst of capacity building and would like to come up to speed with regards to its scientific capabilities and its participation with fisheries management decisions. So AVCP, KNA, Tanana Chiefs and these other Native groups have, over the last

decades increasingly expressed an interest to be at the table and that's where we're going.

Just like the program that Dave is doing up in Aniak with internships, studentships, trainings and interpretations for the general public, I will be working with AVCP in these very same capacities. So I view myself as a consulting biologist working for the people within the Chulista region working for each and every one of the villages within the 56 AVCP villages. And working to communicate their desires and their needs as well as working to answer their questions biologically.

I will be doing a lot of wearing of different hats. I'll be in the villages working with the villagers. I will also be representing villagers at various meetings and scientific working groups.

For example, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, together with other groups has recently begun what they call a reassessment of the escapement goals for the Kuskokwim River. And the escapement goals are the magic number of fish that they'd like to see making it up to the spawning areas for several of the tributaries flowing into the Kuskokwim. These numbers, these escapement numbers are something that revisited every so often to -- so scientists get together and ask themselves, are these realistic numbers, are these fair numbers, are these the numbers that have worked well in guiding management efforts and I will be serving on that committee to reevaluate those.

I will also be traveling to Canada in another couple of weeks to work on the joint technical committee, that's for the US/Canada Yukon River agreements. So I think Dave and I will be both very busy traveling representing Native villagers and working as biological consultants.

We will have, as was mentioned, two additional biologists, one each for the and the Yukon River drainages which will be hired using the Partners grant monies. Those positions are currently being advertised. We're trying to distribute the word as widely as we possibly can so that we get very highly qualified biologists but not only highly qualified biologists but people, hopefully who have experience in Western Alaska and have cross cultural sensitivity because so many of the issues that are in Western Alaska are much more than science issues, they're cultural issues, they're people issues and we need people that -- we need to find candidates for these positions that have some experience in rural Alaska because it's such a unique place.

Anyhow, I look forward to working with all of you.
Thank you.

MS. GREGORY: Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mary.

MS. GREGORY: Could you address your name to me because I can't remember who you are.

MR. GREENE: I'm sorry, Ms. Gregory. My name is Ben Greene.

MS. GREGORY: Dan.

MR. GREENE: Ben, B-E-N.

MS. GREGORY: B-E-N.

MR. GREENE: And my last name is spelled just like the color but I carry an extra E on the end for reasons I don't understand but G-R-E-E-N-E.

MS. GREGORY: Okay.

MR. GREENE: Thank you.

MS. GREGORY: And can, whoever comes to sit down for our own benefit state your name and also for the record.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you, Mary. Other Councils, do you have questions. Bill McCann.

MR. McCANN: Yeah, when this program that's started already, is it using the kids -- has that started already or going forward to teaching the kids, the students?

MR. CANNON: Oh, as far as the internship program with the kids?

MR. McCANN: Yeah.

MR. CANNON: The actual program I referred to, the internship program was one that was already in place and I got there in Aniak in August and so that program actually had all the -- all the students came and went, they spent a week at different projects. And that's actually a little separate and the internship actual program that's tied in with my position or the positions at AVCP and because I got there later in the summer, we did not have the actual college interns in Aniak. Next year we do plan on having that position filled early in probably May and there will be a student working directly with me throughout the course of the summer.

MR. McCANN: Okay, thank you.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Tom.

MR. KRON: Mr. Chairman. Mr. McCann, again, with each of these seven partner agreements, there is also funding for a college intern. You know, in the case of Kuskokwim Native Association as he mentioned, there would be a college intern, you know, hopefully somebody locally from that area that's working on that area that's working on a college degree, you know, help them along, encourage them to get their

degree in science and come back to the area and work as a full-time professional. But again, that's the intent. The future is in our youth. And the intent is to work with them, to encourage them, to help them get involved in projects, you know, provide opportunities. The Partners will be working with the village to find the best and the brightest to work on these various projects, help them along, encourage them in school, bring them forward so that five or 10 years from now we got, you know, more and more rural local people involved in these issues.

Thank you.

MS. GREGORY: Mr. Chairman. I am glad to see that you are trying to get that program going because a lot of times we don't have the means of working with what's happening to us other than people who come from outside of the area to do the work and I'm glad you guys are doing the Partners program.

MR. GREENE: If I could just say one word. With regards to the two fishery biologist positions AVCP is hiring, it is likely with these positions that we will be bringing biologists into the area although hopefully we will find somebody who has done work in Western Alaska.

However, in the future, we anticipate having a pool of trained experts who are also Natives that we can hire, that is our goal. You know, maybe these two biologist positions, the Partner positions, maybe these will be the last biologists we have to bring in from outside and in the course of the next two years, four years, six years, a decade, hopefully we can build scientific capacity within the youth, the youth that are also learning from their elders and learning traditional ways because only when we marry together the traditional knowledge, the knowledge that can only be learned by the Natives living - and their families and marry that to the Western science, then we can -- and we can feel good that we've truly trained a biologist who is capable of dealing with the issues, that's the direction we are intending to go.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Other questions from Councils.
James.

MR. CHARLES: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On your monitoring for fish, they mentioned whitefish up at Whitefish Lake, are you monitoring different species of fish not the salmon only or is there like pike, whitefish and other species?

MR. CANNON: Yes, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Charles, the position is subsistence position and definitely the salmon do tend to get the major emphasis of any of the research being done but the Whitefish Lake is a very good example of a project now that is going on that deals with something other than salmon. And whitefish, one -- or several species that we know very little about and it is an extremely important subsistence food.

So, yes, as time goes on we will be putting other proposals together to come up with additional studies on other species.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Tom.

MR. KRON: Yeah, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Charles, several weeks ago I was able to go up and visit with Dave and Wayne Morgan and we were able to take a trip down to Whitefish Lake, but I think again they'll be reporting back to you. This is a Fisheries Information Service Project, it's one of the projects that this Council has supported funding for. But I think some real exciting information coming out of that project, you know, I think we're finding out that whitefish, various species of whitefish that spend a good portion of their time in Whitefish Lake also migrate right by Bethel, right by your villages to go down to saltwater and then go back up so some of the fish that you catch here on the Kuskokwim are spending a part of their time at Whitefish Lake, a part of their time in saltwater, a part of their time in the river in between and I think we're getting some really good information that will help to better understand those populations and maintain them for you and your grandchildren and future generations.

MR. CANNON: And just one other thing I would add on, with that Whitefish Lake project we are also collecting some data on northern pike.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Other questions from Councils. Thank you gentlemen.

MR. KRON: Thank you.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Next on our agenda is National Wildlife Refuge. Michael Reardon, come on up.

MR. REARDON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My name is Michael Reardon. I'm the refuge manager for the Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge. I was going to take this opportunity to talk about a few issues, something other than fish for a few minutes. Annually, I kind of give you an update on some of the programs that we have out there and things of interest you may want to keep your eye on. So I've come up with four or five short subjects here. I know that you want to try to get done today, so I won't take a lot of time on this.

One of the issues that's come up in the last couple years that I think we need to address and I think education is the best way to do it, law enforcement is another way to do it, is the issue of spotlighting for moose. We're seeing a lot of it occurring, both on the Kuskokwim and on the Yukon River. People driving boats and using spotlights at night and shooting moose. Frequently, they've been cow moose and calves. There's a lot of indication that this is a real wasteful practice. It's dark, people are shooting at the head of an animal. There's a high wounding loss on this kind of hunting and it's illegal. So we did put a couple advertisements in the.....

MS. GREGORY: Excuse me, Mr. Chairman. The interpreter can't be heard from our elder here.

MR. REARDON: Sounds like it's working now. So, anyway, it's a wasteful take, it's illegal to do it, it's kind of dangerous and it's something that we're working on through law enforcement efforts to some extent, but mostly I think that if we try to educate people about the fact that it is wasteful and illegal, hopefully we can get this activity stopped because it's becoming more frequent. We could use your help on that. You live in those communities and if you could discourage people from doing that, it would be very helpful. If there's questions on that, I'd be glad to answer them.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mike, earlier, when we first started, I asked if it's possible, a check station in Lower Yukon. The reason I asked, I had to pull my sons out from my fish camp due to the problem of night and day traveling with search light and hunting. I didn't want them to blame doing that on my fish camp area, so I was asking if that's possible to have a check station at mouth of 30 mile lower end.

MR. REARDON: Mr. Chairman, we'll talk about our plan for law enforcement and just inform people out there. Now that we have enough moose on the Lower Yukon, people are actually out there hunting. Perhaps that's one of the things we need to do, is get down there and then talk to people. I'll certainly take that under advisement and consider what we could do to address that.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: The reason why I'm saying this, because every time when there's something happen, they always have to look at me because they know I go meeting with Fish & Wildlife.

MR. REARDON: I understand. I'm in the same position. I think all of us are in that same position when we deal with these issues and that's why I'm asking for your help in addressing this.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Lester.

MR. WILDE: Mike, how do you know that these people that are using the search lights are actually out hunting for moose and not finding their way home from hunting that day? Because I've done that. I've used my spotlight at night to find my location when traveling in the dark and we're not necessarily spotting moose with a search light. As you know, us moose hunters, when we're out, the moose that we usually catch are just right before it turns dark and by the time you're done butchering and everything is done, the meat is put away, then it's dark by the time you're heading home. So how do you differentiate or have you actually witnessed the hunting of moose with spotlight.

MR. REARDON: That's part of the problem. I've done that myself. You get caught out at night and you have a spotlight on the boat and you use that to get home when you're running along the bank so you

can see where it is and that's why, at least in this state, it's legal to have a spotlight on your boat to do that and that's an okay thing to do.

The reason we know it's occurring is because we've had a lot of reports from local people, both -- most of the reports we've had have been from the upper part of the Yukon, Russian Mission, Paimiut, in that area, and then on the Kuskokwim area, frankly a lot of it's occurred in the sloughs that go into Whitefish Lake not far from Aniak, Tuluksak, Kalsag. It could be people from anywhere doing it. People have called us and said they've been camping and at midnight people going by with a spotlight, they go around the next bend and they hear four or five shots, 3:00 in the morning they go by with a boat load of meat. We've had enough reports of that both on the Yukon and on the Kuskokwim. And a lot of other people calling and saying that people are traveling around at 1:00, 2:00 in the morning, going up and down the rivers with spotlights, so probably they're not going to camp.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: John Thompson.

MR. THOMPSON: My name is John Thompson from St. Mary's. I've done that many of times to 3:00, 4:00 or 5:00 o'clock. When we go up to Unit 21(E) and when you are weather hold or when we catch a moose good enough to travel, I couldn't differentiate the traveling part. I've done it 3:00, 4:00, 5:00 o'clock in the morning with a moose that I caught and it's hard to make a verification of when we are to travel.

MR. REARDON: I understand. I agree. There are people traveling all times of the day and night. The issue is trying to determine if there's spotlighting for moose and trying to shoot them, so that is the enforcement problem. You have to actually catch people in the act of actually spotlighting moose and killing it. It's pretty hard to do. I think the best effort we can make on this is to educate people that using spotlights to spot moose and shoot them is the wrong thing to do. We're not worried about people traveling at night or anything like that, but I think we do need to address the spotlighting issue. Mostly, I think, the biggest reason is it's a wasteful way to take animals. They lose a lot of animals when they do that.

MR. THOMPSON: Usually sometimes you catch a moose just before dark and you have to work on it and traveling back.

MR. REARDON: I understand and that's not a problem.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Other questions for Mike from Council?

MR. REARDON: If not, Mr. Chairman, I've just got a couple other things here. I'll go ahead and start on this. Fish & Wildlife, my staff and some of the agents from other parts of the state did the law enforcement efforts on the subsistence fisheries this summer, both on the Kuskokwim and the Yukon. In these tough times with fish, we've asked people to do some really difficult things, especially on the Yukon, where the restrictions have been very tough on people. When you're down to fishing one or two days a week in some instances or not at all, we understand that that is a very tough deal on local people.

What we have found being out there doing law enforcement is that the compliance has been very, very good. Very few people have violated these closures and the regulations and I think that that's a recognition that people are understanding that this is a tough time and everybody needs to get involved in the conservation efforts. So I thought it was appropriate to mention that the public support and the compliance from people on both rivers has been very, very good. I think it's probably as good as you would expect anywhere in the entire state. Hopefully, the efforts people have made to conserve fish by doing this are going to pay dividends. I think we're going to see our runs return and we're going to have healthy fish populations in the future, but I think people can feel confident that they contributed to the responding increases in population.

Another big issue out here is moose management and I'm going to leave that for Roger Savoy, who is also here, and he'll be talking under the Fish & Game. Rather than discuss it twice, I thought it was better. He's got some overheads that he'll cover in a little while here when his opportunity comes up, so I'm going to skip over moose.

Caribou, the Mulchatna herd is still healthy and moving into this country. This year it's a little slow. We haven't had a major inundation of animals coming from the east. There's just been scattered animals throughout the area. This is the first year the State Board of Game passed a regulation allowing non-resident hunters to hunt in Unit 18 for caribou. They could kill one bull caribou in the month of September. This is the first year that we've had a significant number of sport hunters coming and going out of Bethel and Dillingham and Aniak and those areas and coming into Unit 18, this area here, and hunting caribou.

The one thing that they did when they made that legal that I thought was wise and I'm pleased that they did it was they closed moose hunting to non-residents in the area south of the Yukon so that when they are caribou hunting and they see a moose, they cannot kill it. So, because of our conservation efforts with moose, I think that was a good thing they did.

Just a quick comment about waterfowl since I usually give you an update on where we're going with waterfowl even though you guys don't deal with regulations on waterfowl. This past year was a very good year for nesting for ducks and geese on the Delta. Didn't have much predation from foxes. The weather was good. They produced a lot of young and we're hoping that's going to kind of bolster the population of birds out there.

Probably the most important thing to let you know is that the Migratory Bird Co-Management Council has been meeting several times over the last year and I think we're very close and most probably will have a legal spring season starting March of this next spring, so this will be the first time since 1960, when the act was passed that closed waterfowl harvesting in the spring, we'll have a legal season that will occur out here on the Delta. People can go hunting without concerns about whether it's

legal or not. Probably some of the same regulations that we have under the Goose Management Plan will still apply for eiders and emperors and some of the birds we have concerns about. Otherwise, people are free to hunt legally this coming spring. Unless something happens between now and then that causes that not to happen, but everything looks fairly positive. They're going to have a meeting here on next Tuesday and Wednesday I'm going to go to and I'm hoping that that will kind of set the course for a legal spring season.

I had one other quick thing here. We talked a couple years ago about the concern of wanton waste. I'm pleased to announce that I've talked to the law enforcement officers that are out in the field a lot and checking people. We haven't had a significant wanton waste issue for a couple years now. We had all our RT's talking to people about it in the villages, you guys obviously talked about it, there were radio discussions about it. It appears that perhaps that's helped a lot because we have not seen any wanton waste issues from local people in the last couple years with moose or caribou or anything. That concludes my comments. I'll be glad to answer questions if there are any.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: John.

MR. HANSEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mike, this summer, when our area was open, Mountain Village, I was told that that was Fish & Game or Fish & Wildlife camp up around 10 mile. Was it Fish & Wildlife camp or Fish & Game camp?

MR. REARDON: During which season, John?

MR. HANSEN: When our moose season opened.

MR. REARDON: I don't believe so. I know we didn't have anybody out there and I'm not aware the Fish & Wildlife Protection had anybody up there either. They were using airplanes and checking hunters here and there, but I'm not aware of any camp they set up.

MR. HANSEN: This is just what I heard. But they didn't say if it was Fish & Wildlife or Fish & Game.

MR. REARDON: I don't believe so. You know, we coordinate pretty closely with them on law enforcement stuff anyway and I'm not aware of any camp they set anywhere on the Yukon.

MR. HANSEN: And the guys that hunted in Akulurak Slough, they mentioned they saw Fish & Wildlife boat or Fish & Game boat checking around. So I think since we have a lot of moose where we are or where I am below Mountain, I think what Harry brought up, a check point would be real good if Fish & Wildlife put a check point like up in 12 mile they had one. I think Fish & Game has a camp there. If Fish & Game could have a check point like 12 mile, I think it would help.

MR. REARDON: Okay. We'll talk about that. It's probably a good idea if we can get out there.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Lester.

MR. WILDE: I'd like to get back to the fish portion of your presentation. A year ago you had a telemetry project over on the Hooper Bay or on the Chevak side of Apoon (ph). Could you touch on that a little bit? I'm still a little interested on how that turned out.

MR. REARDON: It was our first year to attempt to find out where the fish that are traveling up the rivers around Chevak and Hooper, the Apoon (ph), Winhokanuk (ph), Achniochuk(ph) and Kashunuk, where those fish are going. Local people were under the belief that some of those fish were spawning in small streams that run into those rivers and the belief in past years by fish managers was that the majority of those fish went up the Yukon River by going up the Kashunuk. Well, we still don't know the answer to that. They had difficulties catching enough fish out there during the time they were tagging in late June. It was a time when a lot of people were also subsistence fishing, so a lot of the good areas were taken for catching fish and the people who were out there weren't real familiar with the area, but they did tag and they put radio transmitters on 11 fish. Out of those 11 fish, I believe seven of them were caught in the Chevak area or on the Apoon (ph) or Aiun (ph) or one of those areas there and only one of those fish actually went into the Yukon River and passed the receiving stations. I believe it was one up near -- not far from Holy Cross. So we still don't really know.

Next year our intent is to go out there and put transmitters in a lot more fish. If we can get them in 30 or 40 chum salmon, then maybe we can learn about where they're going. This is the first year to attempt to figure out how to do it and I think we know how now. We can learn more about it next summer.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Other questions from Council to Mike?

MR. REARDON: Thank you.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Do we have Bureau of Land Management here?

MR. NICK: Mr. Chairman, BLM representatives could not make it. We do have a handout from Taylor Brelsford here. I'll hand it out to you.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay. Next on our reports are Alaska Department of Fish & Game.

MR. SAVOY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'll introduce myself here first. My name is Roger Savoy. I'm the area biologist for Alaska Department of Fish & Game Division of Wildlife Conservation. Fritz George is with me as well because Fritz is the chair of the Lower Kuskokwim Advisory Committee with whom we're doing a lot of the work to put together a strategy to increase the number of moose on the Kuskokwim. My presentation is here. I've got a number of slides.

Basically, this slide just shows a logo that you're getting pretty familiar with. We've got it on the coffee cups and we've got it here as well. It's kind of like a bat signal up there right now. Basically, the Kuskokwim River has a lot of potential for a lot more moose and that's the impetus for trying to do something. The reason the department is starting to work on this goes back quite a while, to the first month I arrived at the job five years ago. I was approached by Michelle Spark (ph), who was working for AVCP and really wanted to get a moose management strategy put together to increase moose on the Kuskokwim, particularly after some of the benefits were starting to be seen below Mountain Village. Anyway, this is the first start for it and I'll continue with the introduction then.

We've got four established moose count areas in Unit 18 right now. You can see we've got the lowest Yukon survey area. We've got the Andreafsky survey area, the Bimut survey area and the Kuskokwim survey area. When we talk about the number of moose that we're going to have as our goal, we're considering the Kuskokwim survey area. We understand that there's a lot of moose habitat adjacent to that and in the area, but you can't count everything out there. It's expensive enough doing the four that we're doing. This will give us a framework to work with. When we're talking about a moose strategy, we're considering the Kuskokwim drainage only. Any of the strategies that we're going to implement should not affect directly people on the Yukon or the moose hunting on the Yukon. This slide here is to get you oriented.

The Lower Kuskokwim census area in 1993, we estimated that there were 216 moose there along the Kuskokwim River and from Kalskag to Bethel. Remember, that's in the area that was boxed out. You can see the graph showing the number of animals that we have in 1993. Again, it was surveyed in 1998, where we estimated the population at 84. This past March we did another survey and estimated the population at 94. You can see also included is a bar there to represent the goal of 2000 moose in that area. So you can see the goal and what we actually have are pretty far apart right now. It's going to take some concerted effort to get somewhere close to that goal.

In other areas, we've seen some real improvements and this gives people some real incentive to try to get these kind of benefits on the Lower Kuskokwim as well. Below Mountain Village in 1988 there was a survey in which no moose were found. Now, those guys that live down below Mountain Village probably realized there were moose tracks and occasionally moose moved through, but during that survey where I think they just ground it out for 27 or 29 hours of flying and they didn't see a single moose during that time. I wasn't a part of that survey, but I looked at the data. So you started out with very few moose. There was a five-year moratorium that was in place down there that got a kernel of a moose population started. We had 65 moose by the 1994 survey.

This past March we had another census there and the estimate of that population was 674. So, to go from next to nothing to 674 by the year 2002, and that doesn't show up on the graph there, but it's in

the text 2002, that's a pretty dramatic population increase and it's providing lots of benefits for people down below Mountain Village now.

The Andreafsky moose count area is -- has improved. It hasn't had quite as dramatic a growth in the last census, but you can see that we're still hovering between four and five hundred moose in that count area. Again, if you go back to 1995 when there were only 52 moose, I'm still pretty satisfied that moose population is headed in the right direction along the Andreafsky. I shouldn't say along the Andreafsky, but within the Andreafsky count area, it does include a lot of habitat right next to the Yukon.

MR. WILDE: Did you say it does not include or it does include?

MR. SAVOY: It does. It does include a lot of habitat. It includes about 1,500 square miles. In the Bimiut count area shows the greatest moose density in Unit 18. Moose numbers increased from 994 in '92 to, at present, we estimated the population at 2,382 moose. That's the midpoint of an estimate. That's a nice population to have. It serves a lot of people to have a population that large. A real important point to remember is that the habitat in the Bimiut count area is quite similar to the habitat on the Kuskokwim, which translates into a potential along the Kuskokwim of something in this ballpark.

Comparing the Kuskokwim to Bimiut again, we conducted some trend counts, including -- Fritz was part of one of these trend counts and including some other village representatives where we would use the same airplane on the same day and fly within the Kuskokwim drainage searching for moose for anywhere from an hour to two hours and come up with the number of moose per hour that we find. We did the same thing in the Bimiut count area as well. You know, the Kuskokwim count area is the number of moose per hour that we were able to find and is quite a bit lower than the number of moose per hour in the Bimiut count area. The actual numbers for these on the order of -- I guess I can remember the 2000 count well. It was 9.9 moose per hour seen on the Kuskokwim and 229 moose per hour seen in the Bimiut count area. You know, it's a dramatic difference when you're flying along in a plane watching moose go by faster than you can really count them in a couple places. It's dramatic and it points out again the fact that we could have a lot more moose on the Kuskokwim than what we have.

Another example, it isn't from Unit 18, but I think it's real good to point this out, is that the nearby Togiak drainage has habitat similar to some other drainages that we have on the Unit 18 side, like the Goodnews drainage or the Kwethluk drainage or similar drainages like that. Even within a drainage like the Togiak drainage where a moose management plan was put together with the Togiak refuge and the Department of Fish & Game there as well and the residents of Togiak and Twin Hills. They were able to get the moose to increase from about four, I think was the number in 1991 that they counted during an intensive search of that drainage, up to over 600 moose. Again, it shows that we've got similar

habitats. We should have similar potentials. In this case again, it took a management effort to get it kick-started.

Reported harvest in Unit 18 kind of varies quite a bit. The point that is worth noticing on here is that the Lower Kuskokwim, at least for reported harvest, is providing quite a bit smaller numbers of moose that are taken than there is on the Yukon. The Bimiut, Andreafsky and Lower Yukon are kind of hunted together. You know, people hunt within the entire drainage and you'll notice that the totals don't add up to -- the total of the different count areas don't add up to the Unit 18 total. Again, there are places within Unit 18 where there are moose and people are hunting moose, but they're not part of the survey area, so you end up with different totals.

The number in parentheses indicates the number of non-residents that have participated. As Mike Reardon mentioned, non-resident moose hunting south of the Yukon was eliminated by the Board of Game this last year, so that number is not -- it's a low number at four. Thirteen was the highest we've had, but it's not likely to increase and it won't increase on the Kuskokwim since they're not able to participate. I would expect that if we're able to successfully get more moose on the Kuskokwim, the numbers of moose that are reported harvested should increase as well by quite a bit I would think.

Predators are always a topic of discussion. Frankly, there's not much that's likely to be done with predation other than what local residents are able to accomplish themselves. But for wolves, you know, we don't know the number. We don't do wolf surveys. One index of wolf numbers though is that harvest has increased where 10 years ago the average harvest I think was six. I have less than 10 there. This past couple years we harvested close to 100 wolves and there's probably quite a bit of wolves that are taken that aren't reported, particularly if people are using them at home for wolf ruffs where a stiffer hide probably makes for a better ruff.

Most of the wolves that we are harvesting come from the hills south and east of the Kuskokwim up in the mountains where there's caribou and those wolves are probably targeting caribou and not moose. On the Yukon, I think it's the other way around. I think the prey base for wolves there is moose and in some places we get complaints that wolves are killing moose. I'm sure they are. Fortunately, I think our harvest of wolves on the Yukon has gone up quite a bit as well, so that's helped. Given that there are wolves out there and there probably always will be, it's gratifying to see that even in the face of this predation we're still seeing moose populations grow on the Yukon, so we're still in good shape there as long as we can keep that population growing I think there's no need for too much alarm yet.

Brown bears, you can see we don't have a number that was derived from a census. The reported harvest is small, less than 10 bears. The bear population is probably fairly healthy. There's a few bears along the moose habitat along the Kuskokwim. They show up every now and

then, but it's not a real high density of bears that would prevent moose from becoming established in that area.

I'm sure everybody has questions about predators and comments about predators. I'd like to focus the discussion though on trying to get moose and what we can do for moose management on the Kuskokwim. I think that's the topic that we really want to address. Really, the habitat is there for a lot more moose. We did a browse survey. This is the first time we've gone and done a unit-wide review and have some numbers we can put together for measuring browse on the Yukon and the Kuskokwim. There are some other fairly famous areas within the state that have real low densities of moose even though they have real good moose habitat. The Yukon Flats comes to mind. Even in the Bimiut count area, our browse is only hit about as hard as the browse along the Yukon Flats and there's still a lot of potential for more.

There's a photograph there that you can kind of pick up my head there to get some scale, but there's a lot of moose habitat in Unit 18 and a lot of it is like this and it's not hard to find good habitat like that throughout Unit 18. When you guys are in the boat, I'm sure you know you run into moose habitat. In some places, it's more than acres and acres of it. There's square miles of it. It's some of the most outstanding moose habitat anywhere. The guy that was doing the habitat assessment with me has experience throughout this state and he says our moose habitat, particularly along the Yukon, is some of the best moose habitat anywhere.

To look at where you're going, it's kind of good to see where you've been. I have a short Reader's Digest version of what kind of moose seasons we've had in the past. You can see at one time they were really long. You maybe remember August 20th to December 31st being the length of our moose seasons. In 1982, the Yukon Delta was separated from the rest of the unit as far as management was concerned and then by '88 the strategy was put together to implement a moratorium to stop moose hunting for a time period to allow moose to become established down there and you saw from the other graph that we had that moose actually did that and 674 was the last population estimate. So it showed at least in that area it worked pretty well. There was some sacrifices that were involved with it.

The winter moose season on the Kuskokwim hasn't been opened beginning in the year 2000. That was kind of an effort to see if we can't make at least one step toward increasing moose on the Kuskokwim and getting that population up to where it can start to support a larger harvest. The current moose seasons are the Yukon Delta September 5 through 25. I expect that's probably going to change here shortly. I'd like to -- there was a presentation to the Board of Game or a petition to the Board of Game I should say to try to increase the season and it was increased, at least for this year, September 1 through 25. I'll work with the Advisory Committees and see if we can't put a proposal together to increase the season September 1 through 30th like the rest of the Yukon in the fall. The remainder of Unit 18 is typically September 1 through September 30th with a 10-day winter moose season that's to be announced by emergency order.

The one other thing I did want to mention is that these seasons are open to bulls only. Losing a cow is the reason we're not able to get this population to grow and that's critical.

The next step is where do we want to be in five years and we brought something like this to the Lower Kuskokwim Advisory Committee. How do you get there? I'll just go ahead and read this. Lower Kuskokwim Advisory Committee listened to testimony from residents of the Lower Yukon where a five-year moose moratorium helped build the population there to over 600 animals. Harry Wilde was a part of that meeting we had. I guess it was a couple years ago, right? And Robert Moore was another person that was brought into that meeting. After hearing the testimony, members of the Lower Kuskokwim Advisory Committee proposed a similar moratorium for the Lower Kuskokwim. You know, you see it works in one place, why not here. The Department agrees with the Advisory Committee that this approach is a valid mechanism to improve moose numbers.

There's two more slides. I put this presentation together partly because I'm going to need to do a presentation up in Aniak, so the effect on Unit 19 was worth mentioning for that audience. Right now most Kuskokwim River moose hunters that have the means are headed upriver to hunt already. I think if there was a closure in Unit 18, there would be a few guys that would go upriver to hunt where the season will still be open, but I think right now most of the people who can go upriver and have the time to go upriver are doing that at the moment. You know, there's less than 100 moose on the Kuskokwim and many more upriver and from that it makes sense to do that.

As moose increase in Unit 18, fewer hunters will be compelled to go up to Unit 19 to conduct their moose hunts. We saw that that was actually the case on the Yukon where moose checked through the check station at Bimiut dropped from about 60 per year to 18 per year. The actual numbers are in parentheses. But as people are able to hunt closer to home, pressure upriver on moose populations, especially in a place like Unit 19 where there's lots of users trying to use those moose, tends to decrease.

The last thing that I have is a slide that includes the Lower Kuskokwim moose strategy. I have some handouts that I can give to the members here right now. You can read through that as well and that's a good chance for Fritz to take over from here.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Fritz.

MR. GEORGE: Quyana, Mr. Chairman and quyana, Roger, for giving me this opportunity to join you in addressing the moose management plan. (In Yup'ik)

INTERPRETER: He's on the moose advisory committee. Now you have seen it through the report, Roger Savoy's, how they are trying to increase the number on the moose. Their plan is to go from village to village and inform the people and educate the people the goal of the advisory committee is for growth in this region for these animals. When we talk about these animals, the advisory committee, when they are together,

they are supporting one another in informing the public how the moose populations expect to thrive and educate the people and what their desire and effort. If the people really believe that it can be done and we are not wasteful in that manner. So it's an effort of the advisory group or the working group on these efforts. That's about all he has to offer. In a way, they have Yukon River success growth.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Roger, I was quite a bit involved in the Lower Yukon moose management plan when we started. I was on the council of Mountain Village and we had coastal mayor association. There wasn't very many moose in the Lower Yukon below Mountain Village. We tried to work with whole villages in that area. With the support of the people, mostly elders, we did increase the moose down there. We put five years moratorium. It was amazing, but the support of people and the use of elders. Still today, the people from history, elders are the one the people more listen more because they have a lot of experience. Even though they're not educated like me, elders, they are respectful people. If not for the elders, I don't think the Lower Yukon would have that many moose population right now today. John Hansen.

MR. HANSEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Roger, on your surveys, does Department of Fish & Game do surveys along with Fish & Wildlife or the two entities survey different areas or the same area?

MR. SAVOY: Mr. Chair, John. Yeah, we do them together actually. I'll fly inside a Fish & Wildlife service aircraft and vice versa, so we come up with shared information, so it's the exact same survey.

MR. HANSEN: Yeah, because I asked Mike sometime this spring after their survey. Fish & Wildlife surveyed in March. I asked them if they went to the whole area and Mike checked that they just surveyed in certain areas, like around Kotlik, the Yukon River. There's a lot of moose where they didn't survey, so they just counted some of the moose population. Like Kushlakov has a lot of moose and nobody surveyed there and Akulurac Slough has a lot of moose and nobody surveyed. If you two entities would have surveyed the whole area, I think you would find that you had over a thousand moose because there's a lot of moose down there. And for that five-year moratorium we put in, the Department of Fish & Game wanted to open at the end of the first year, but we told them when they had a meeting in Alakanuk, we told them hold it for two more years. Actually, it was seven years that we had moose moratorium closure and that paid for this year.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: John Thompson.

MR. THOMPSON: Thank you. I just wanted to -- this would be a comment and a question at the same time. Because the number of moose is always mentioned, but how about separation of the bulls and the cows?

MR. SAVOY: I think that's an excellent question. We only have information right now, direct information anyway, on the number of

adults and the number of calves because we do our surveys during the winter and the bulls have lost their antlers by that time. Every year we've had on our plan the intent to get out during the month of November when bulls still have their antlers and we get some snow on the ground. If you don't have a good background, you end up not seeing the moose that are out there as well, even if you're right over them with an airplane. You can see a few moose, but you never know that you're seeing all of them. The bull to cow ratio then is a number that you end up having to come at indirectly. In the areas where we have done it indirectly, we've done it by doing hunter surveys and we contact hunters when they're out on the river. We ask them -- you know, you guys have gone through the check station and heard this question before, how many moose did you see, how many bulls did you see, and we've gotten numbers that are in the ballpark of 25 to 30 bulls for every 100 cows, which basically means for every 10 cows you see you're going to only see two or maybe three bulls.

It's typical in most of these populations for two reasons. First of all, we're killing bull moose. That takes bull moose out of the population. We're leaving cows behind intentionally so that they can have calves again the following year. So we're going to have a skewed population that's going to have more cows in it than there are bulls. The other thing that happens is bulls don't survive as well as cows. Cows will live pushing 20 years old and that's incredibly old for a bull. Even those 20-year-old cows are pumping out calves, so they're still worth keeping around. So it's a real good question or comment, I guess.

MR. THOMPSON: I'm glad you mentioned what I was going to question. A female that is at least 20 years old or so, it's always lonely one that separates from the others.

MR. SAVOY: Yeah, I think that's an accurate observation. A lot of cows, whether they're old or young even, will be seen without a calf. When we put radio collars on cows -- I was really impressed by this, frankly. When we put radio collars on cows and researchers that did that were up in Fairbanks, they had cows into their 20's having calves and there was never a situation where I've been made aware of that cows stopped having calves. You know, like people go through menopause, moose don't have that luxury, I guess, if you want to call it a luxury. They'll continue to have calves throughout their lives. When you see cows without calves, what those researches found is that it's because those cows lost their calf to a bear or whatever predator might have taken it or drowning or whatever the accident might have been. Occasionally you'll get an animal that can't have a calf for one year, you know, gets sick or gets injured, can't have a calf, can't find a bull. Overall, populations that have been studied -- in fact, across North America, populations that have been studied are real consistently at about 85 to 90 percent pregnancy rates and even 100 percent pregnancy rates. When we're seeing these animals, big animals that look like they should have a calf, the explanation is probably that they lost it to predation or some other cause.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Lester.

MR. WILDE: Roger, I notice that your goal for moose count in the Kuskokwim area is up to 1,000. I was just curious. Item four on this states the fall season re-opened for bulls only after five years of no hunting, or there is a minimum moose population on the Lower Kuskokwim of 1,000. I wasn't paying too much attention when you were giving us the numbers on the actual or estimated moose counts in that area. Could you give me a number on that, please?

MR. SAVOY: Yeah, I'd be glad to. I'll point out a couple of things. Let's go back to that slide that has the Lower Kuskokwim census area on it. The numbers that we have in that area right now, our last estimate was 94 in the count area. That count area again is this one right here. The numbers you were pointing out here are kind of related to a couple different things. Number four is when we would want to re-open the season. If we see that we've got 1,000 moose in an area, that's a good start on a moose population. If we've got 1,000 moose out there, we can open a season for bulls only and still continue to keep that population growing. So if we hit 1,000 before five years are up, why not? We could open the moose season. That's the way this strategy was put together. But that doesn't really change our goal. Our goal is still more than 1,000. Once the season is open, we want to continue to let that population continue to grow. So our goal is still 2,000 moose in that count area.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mary.

MS. GREGORY: I have two questions. That slide where you showed in parentheses non-residential hunters, can you put that back up? I have a question for you. And also, when you count the moose population for the 2001, do you count it only 94 and were they all bulls or did they include both sexes?

MR. SAVOY: I'll answer the second question first if that's okay. We counted all the moose we found, bulls, cows, calves. We got a calf to adult ratio. Number of calves was actually pretty high. The Bimiut count area had tremendously high numbers of calves.

MS. GREGORY: Were the 94 only bulls?

MR. SAVOY: No, the 94 includes all bulls and cows. So if we opened a season for bulls only, there's quite a few, less than 94 animals available for harvest if we're going to try to protect those cows. The second question here you had, you wanted me to put that up so you could ask a question.

MS. GREGORY: In the Unit 18, total 178, the 13 number you said were non-residential hunters?

MR. SAVOY: That's correct.

MS. GREGORY: I presume those were bounty hunters for moose antlers. If that is the case, I can see a lot of waste in that hunting.

MR. SAVOY: Okay. I can address that. Trophy hunters would probably be the word you're looking for. Bounty hunters is somebody that shoots an animal and collects.....

MS. GREGORY: Yes, just collect the head and leave the meat to rot.

MR. SAVOY: First of all, I guess the connotation that you're presenting for the trophy hunter taking the head, leaving the meat behind and just taking the antlers. If anybody does that, they can face a fine -- I think the fine is up to five years in jail and \$10,000 and any of the items that they use, including airplanes and boats and firearms and everything, is potentially confiscated. So the penalty for doing what you're describing for anybody, including these non-residents, is pretty stiff. The individuals that are participating in this hunt aren't necessarily all trophy hunters. The few that I've talked to were individuals who had family members that were living in Unit 18 and that's why they chose to hunt in Unit 18. I think a good example, I have a nephew that lives in Kotlik or he grew up in Kotlik. His family is in Kotlik. But he moved to Oregon to get a job. If he came up and hunted, he would have to hunt as a non-resident even though he's Yup'ik Eskimo and he lived in the Lower Yukon all his life. Some of those 13 individuals are in that sort of situation. Others have family members that live in Bethel for example and they're hunting with those family members. You can see there are 13 of those in the entire unit. Along the Lower Kuskokwim, which is the area we're trying to address moose populations, there was one, in fact one in the last five years, and I think that individual was a family member of somebody who lived in Bethel. But now, 2001, south of the Yukon River, non-residents can't even hunt, so it's kind of a moot point.

MS. GREGORY: Oh, I was going to ask you about the old nags, the female moose that we think are non-calving period any more, but you said they calf until they die. That's what you're saying?

MR. SAVOY: Yeah, that is what people who have put radio collars on moose have told me. I haven't seen it myself. I haven't done a radio collar study with moose myself, but I've talked with the researchers who had and that's what they passed along to me. So that's my experience with it, just from talking with other researchers who've had animals into their 20's. I think the oldest they've had was like 29. I could be wrong on that, but it's surprisingly old when they still had calves.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Billy McCann.

MR. McCANN: When you count moose, how do you count moose that are cows and bulls? Did you happen to count how many bulls a year you got in an area and how many cows in an area? The reason why I'm

asking this is we're trying to grow the moose some way. As far as I know, even a human being, with no bull you cannot produce a man, a girl, whatever, so that moose is the same way, I think. But the hunters have been telling me that there's lots of cows and hardly see bulls nowadays because, we've been hunting the bulls for so many years, so it got to be bulls be down. How do you count them? Like if I ask you how many cows you got now, today, how many bulls you got now, today, but you've been counting the whole works maybe.

MR. SAVOY: There's a lot there that you've brought up. The first question, how do we count them. We are flying. When we get our population census, we're flying during the time of year when bulls don't have antlers, so we're not trying to differentiate bulls from cows at that time. The only thing that we're differentiating at that point are adult moose and calves and they're pretty easy to tell from the air just by the size of the animals. But the point that you're making that there's fewer and fewer bulls, particularly when they get hunted hard is true. One of the proxies to measure that is to look at the cows in the spring before something has had a chance to devour the calf. When we look at moose during the spring and we're looking at cows, we know that they're finding bulls because a large percentage have calves. That's a real key point.

The other point is, I think it's going to be a hard sacrifice to make, that it will always be true if we're hunting bulls only that you're going to see a lot more cows than bulls and that's going to be an adjustment. There's no question about that. If we get frustrated and lose that tolerance for seeing 20 cows before you see a bull, if we don't have the tolerance to do that, we're not going to have those 20 cows making 10 bulls next year. I mean half of them are going to have bulls next year. So, as long as we can keep those cows pregnant, those cows continue to have calves, half of those calves continue to be bulls, then I think we can continue to keep our bulls out there so we can continue to hunt them into the future.

LEO: Let me make a little laugh for all of us, I guess. One time I was hunting upriver, below McGrath. That's about five years ago. I went across by little canoe to other side of the river and my buddy was on the little hill watching me and looking at the moose track. I had hardly seen a bull for whole one week. We were waiting, waiting there every day. I see every day cow coming out. So I went across to look at the tracks and then turn around towards the river. I hear something, a noise behind me. I look and, by golly, a cow is standing right by me. I think she was looking for a bull or something. So I went across. Pushed my boat up. She didn't follow me across. I think they were looking for bulls.

That's why one time game wardens come meeting down there. They said something about there's no more bulls or something like that, so I told the game wardens, yeah, I know that. There's no more bulls because we're killing them all the time. You guys are telling us to hunt bull all the time. There's no more bulls unless you make them. Do it yourself, make a bull.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Lester.

MR. WILDE: Roger, I just wanted to let you know that what you stated was what I was going to say. There are indications that there are a lot of bulls because every cow -- well, last year I went out for three days and within the three days I saw 33 cows and calves and out of those 33 cows and calves there was only about three cows that did not have calves and this year was about the same. We were out there for -- I don't remember how many days, but most of the cows that we saw had calves and there were very few cows that did not have calves.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you, Roger.

MR. SAVOY: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: James.

MR. CHARLES: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was in support of the moratorium when we had Advisory Committee Meeting and I tried to talk to the people on the radio about that, but there was a lot of people against the moratorium. I remember Alex was on a line too the same time I was on KYUK talk show and we need support if we're going to have a moratorium. I see that AVCP is supporting that, too. Dario called me or something. If AVCP was in support of the moratorium, but I tried to explain what happened in Yukon and what moose management is doing in Togiak site, but in Lower Kuskokwim the people don't seem to agree with what we talk about here for a moratorium. Like I said, we need support from other groups too if we're going to do this. We're just a few people here from the villages and we're trying to help the hunters, but they don't understand that. Thank you.

MR. SAVOY: Yeah, Mr. Chair, thanks. I agree with you completely. I think that we've had regulations in place where it's been bulls only for -- you can go back for as long as there have been regulations for it. Moose population hasn't increased down here. And it won't without support. We have to have support from all of the villages before we try to implement something like this. The very thing that you're describing is the reason that the department is not trying to dictate what method to take. It's the reason that we've gone to groups, like the Lower Kuskokwim Advisory Committee, which is made up of individuals that represent all of the villages that are affected by this in that area. It's the reason that we're coming to the Regional Advisory Council to present the case for some kind of strategy. It's the reason that I say some kind of strategy instead of a moratorium because moratorium is something that is shown to have worked and that's the reason the Advisory Committee chose that method. It's probably not the only method, but because the Advisory Committee supports it, the Department supports it. It's in that order. It's the people from the area here that chose a moratorium and it's the Department following the people rather than the other way around and I think that's an important distinction. We're moving slow because we want that to be the case. Better yet, we need that to be the case for this to work.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: I think I'm going to cut it out for lunch. If you guys want to talk and ask more questions to Roger, you are able to do that. Because 1:00 o'clock is a very important item that we're holding. There was an announcement through a radio station at 1:00 o'clock we're going to start customary trade. So this time we're going to have a lunch break and come back at 1:00 o'clock.

(Off record)

(On record)

CHAIRMAN WILDE: We had radio announcements that we're going to start at 1:00 o'clock on customary trade, so we're going to go ahead and start. Tom Boyd, customary trade.

MR. BOYD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, Members of the Council. Again, for the record, my name is Tom Boyd with the Office of Subsistence Management from Anchorage. I would ask you to refer to the supplemental materials title Customary Trade. That's the booklet that we passed out. From time to time I will refer to that document to guide you through it. Hopefully you will have had a chance to look it over since we mailed it out some time ago.

In response to public and Council requests, the Federal Subsistence Board, during their meeting in May of 2002, deferred action on the proposed rule for customary trade until January 2003. As you will recall, this matter has been before you on probably two occasions. My office has been working on this issue with a task group that was made up of one member each from each of the councils plus some members of my staff and other agencies and a lot of work has gone into this. Now we have a proposed regulation, which is part of the supplemental material you have in front of you.

The Board was going to make a decision earlier but they decided to delay it based on concerns expressed by a number of folks. So this deferral will allow an opportunity for the Regional Advisory Councils, the public, Tribal organizations and Federal and State agencies to review it and provide additional input to this process.

I'd like to review the reasons with you why the issue of customary trade is before you. Title VIII of ANILCA specifically identifies customary trade as a recognized part of subsistence uses. The term customary trade is defined in regulation as the cash sale of fish and wildlife resources to support personal or family needs and does not include trade which constitutes a significant commercial enterprise. It is important to know the distinction between the terms customary trade and barter. Customary trade is the exchange of subsistence resources for cash. Barter is defined as the exchange of subsistence resources for something other than cash and is provided for also in Title VIII. While exchange of subsistence resources as customary trade may involve fish, shellfish or wildlife resources, the proposed rule or regulation that is before you today only covers the customary trade of fish resources.

The Federal Subsistence Board has found that the term significant commercial enterprise is unclear. The lack of definition is hampering effective law enforcement to prevent abuses. The Board wants to preserve traditional customary trade practices and recognize regional differences while also preventing abuse.

The proposed rule adopted by the Board in December of 2001, which you'll find on page 1 of the book, the supplemental materials. Page 1 is actually page 3, but it's title page 1 at the bottom. It's behind the letter that's right up front. This is the actual proposed rule that has gone out for public comment. This proposed rule recommends that no dollar amount be set on exchange for cash of subsistence caught fish, parts or eggs between rural residents. It prohibits such exchanges for fisheries businesses, whether rural or non-rural. However, the exchange for cash between rural residents and others, meaning non-rural entities, would be allowed as long as the exchange does not make up a significant commercial enterprise.

That's a quick summary of that proposed rule. So let me try to go back over it just for a second to make sure I make this point clear. It recommends no dollar limit, unlimited exchange for cash between subsistence-caught fish, parts or eggs between rural residents. So one resident to another, no limit. It does not allow or prohibits exchange for cash to a fisheries business. And it allows cash sales between a rural resident and someone outside the region as long as that sale does not constitute a significant commercial enterprise. Please note that the last thing I said, we still haven't defined significant commercial enterprise very well, but that's what the proposed rule says right now.

When we received public comments on the proposed rule-making, they generally fell into three areas or alternatives and those three alternatives are listed on page 3 and 4 and 5 through page 7. They are alternatives to the proposed rule I just mentioned. The bulk of these comments supported either alternatives 1 or 2. Alternative 3 was the result of recommendations during public meetings held by the Regional Councils this past winter, last February and March.

So now I'll briefly summarize each of these alternatives. Alternative one, which starts on page 3, this option would maintain the current regulations. Not the proposed rule, but the regulations that are currently in the regulations books now. This permits customary trade unless it is a significant commercial enterprise. In the future, any perceived abuses to this regulation would be addressed on a case-by-case basis with appropriate regulatory changes made. This would be responsive to comments, questioning the need for any new regulation or change to present regulations regarding customary trade. We had a lot of people say you don't need to change anything. Keep the regulations as they are. So alternative one represents that point of view.

Alternative two, which starts at the top of page 4, would prohibit subsistence-caught fish from entering into the commercial market while permitting customary trade practices between individuals in the community to continue. This option would be responsive to comments that the

primary concern is to prevent subsistence-caught fish from entering the commercial markets. If you look at the language on page 4 under alternative two, it says no commercial transactions, you may not sell subsistence-taken fish, parts or their eggs to any individual, business or organization required to be licensed as a fisheries business under the Alaska statute. It also says if you're required to be a licensed fisheries business, you may not purchase or receive with intent to sell subsistence-taken fish, part or their eggs. So there's a restriction for the seller and the buyer there.

Thirdly, part C of that simply says if you buy it, you can't resell it. So the idea there, again, is to limit subsistence-caught fish from entering the commercial markets. Let me talk about alternative three now. Alternative three also starts in the middle of page 4 and goes through page 7. Alternative three would implement paragraphs 11 and 12 of the proposed rule on a regional basis following the guidelines recommended by the Regional Councils. Where there are no Regional Council recommendations, paragraphs 11 and 12 that would be presented are the same as the proposed rule. Paragraph 13 would be implemented as the same as what I read for alternative two on a statewide basis.

So, essentially what we have here are changes to paragraphs 11 and 12 of the proposed rule as represented by several of the other Regional Advisory Councils. I will note that your Council did not make any recommendations, so you won't see anything from your Council reflected in alternative three. You actually deferred comment pending additional public input and I think the results of some of the deliberations that occurred at the AVCP meetings. So this option would respond to comments that differing regional practices and needs must be provided for and would prohibit subsistence-caught fish from entering into the commercial market. To be effective, a system of recordkeeping would need to be instituted if regional regulations limit the amount of fish exchanged for cash or the amount of cash exchanged. I think you'll note in some of the recommendations from the other Councils they limited exchange based on the amount of money a person could receive total for customary trade either sold to other rural residents or those outside the region.

That's a quick overview of all the alternatives. Now I'll refer you to page 9. Page 9 is basically an outline of the time schedule in regard to making the final rule. Currently we are at number three. We're now seeking comments and recommendations from the Regional Councils in the fall 2002 meetings. The comment period for the public to provide input to us is November 1st. That's number four. I'll jump to number six. The Federal Subsistence Board will meet on January the 14th to review this information and adopt final regulations on customary trade and we will then publish the final rule in the fishery regulations that will be effective next March.

So, in summary, the Board requests the Council to review the material provided and make a recommendation that would assist the Board in defining customary trade. The Councils are requested to review the earlier recommendations they made -- again, I mention that to you, you

deferred that -- and either modify or reaffirm this recommendation. The Council recommendation should help us address defining the limits of significant commercial enterprise, should a limit be placed on the exchange of cash between rural and non-rural residents, should a limit be established for the exchange of cash between rural residents, how will limitations for defining customary trade affect subsistence needs, traditions and values of the subsistence way of life. Mr. Chair, that concludes my briefing to you. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Tom, if you look at page 15 on this supplemental material, you could see whoever wrote these here, Region 5, Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Regional Advisory Council, yes, they do recommend. When me and Mary went to a board meeting, we were talking to support and comment period, but we didn't say to them not the whole thing like this. This one is written recommend extending comment period and defer of any decision until May 30, 2003. We never say that. Whoever write that, they put it there. And you look at Region 6, Western Interior Regional Advisory Council, you go down to the start of 11 and 12, for the Yukon and Kuskokwim area only. Some of us said we were uncomfortable with this, so other Councils are putting the words into our mouths before we say anything. We didn't even make any kind of comment or anything, but looking at this here -- go ahead, Don.

MR. RIVARD: Mr. Chair, I think I can address that. The Western Interior, in their deliberations on customary trade, because they cover part of the Kuskokwim and Yukon River drainage, they made their customary trade recommendations only for their region and that's why you saw that wording. They did not make recommendations for the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta region.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: The reason I'm saying this is because whoever put it there for the Yukon-Kuskokwim area only, they shouldn't even put nothing on without consult with us.

MS. GREGORY: Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Go ahead, Mary.

MS. GREGORY: (In Yup'ik)

INTERPRETER: They understand that Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta, the Western Interior is what Boyd recommended, similar to each other.

MS. GREGORY: Mr. Probasco. If this was the result of the Western Interior's recommendations, then it should be noted as such that Upper Yukon and Upper Kuskokwim rather than just Kuskokwim and Yukon.

MR. RIVARD: We'll make that distinction. That's a good observation. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Tom.

MR. BOYD: Mr. Chair, going back to your comment about the statement under Region 5 on page 15, I want to try to understand why

this is incorrect. Could you help me understand what is correct from your perspective that the Council decided so that I can make the change and make sure that it's correct.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: The correct word would be -- deferred wasn't there. It's not supposed to be there. Only thing I remember is extend some comments until April 2003. Does anyone remember that?

MR. WILDE: That was my motion.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: And the rest of that stuff wasn't there.

MR. BOYD: Mr. Chair, I will make that change and make sure that that change is in front of the Board when they deliberate.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you. Mary.

MS. GREGORY: Question on page 4, under C, the sale of subsistence purchase acquired by individual or business is prohibited. Can you explain that? I'm thinking about institutes like the hospital and other social providers that use our resources to supplement their budgets.

MR. BOYD: Mr. Chair and Ms. Gregory. Were you referring to alternative two?

MS. GREGORY: C.

MR. BOYD: Give me a moment, please. Mr. Chair, I can only respond what it means and I'm not sure what it means to you and the region. This alternative and this particular provision would not allow one to buy subsistence-taken fish and resell it. So it focuses on the resale part of it. It prohibits someone who has bought subsistence-taken fish and then resell it.

MS. GREGORY: Are we looking at the same thing?

MR. BOYD: You said page -- maybe I'm looking at the wrong page.

MS. GREGORY: Page 4.

MR. BOYD: I'm sorry. I am looking at the wrong thing. This would be under?

MS. GREGORY: C. Bottom of alternative two, C. My question was, if it's prohibited to sell other than fish businesses, I'm thinking of sometimes the hospitals and other social providers in town use and can buy -- to me it's okay for them to buy to supplement their budgets for people to continue eating their local foods or country foods.

MR. BOYD: Ms. Gregory, are you referring to the C at the bottom of -- this is page 5. Let me make sure I've got it right.

MS. GREGORY: Page 4.

MR. BOYD: Four. Okay. May I approach and have you point it out to me because I may be on the wrong one.

MS. GREGORY: Mr. Chairman, maybe if you can add some words into this for business for profit rather than just business and individuals. Some non-profits will have somebody hunt for them or fish for them to take the local foods for their consumption.

MR. BOYD: Again, I think you need to look at all three, A, B and C, together to some extent when you're interpreting paragraph C. But I think the emphasis there is on prohibiting resale, if you've already bought subsistence-taken fish legally. Part A just prohibits the sale to individuals, businesses or organizations that are fisheries businesses. Part B prohibits a licensed fisheries business from purchasing subsistence-caught fish. Part C allows those who are legally allowable to purchase subsistence-caught fish from reselling those fish. So I'm not sure that your interpretation is correct, Ms. Gregory.

MS. GREGORY: It's confusing the way it is written.

MR. BOYD: I think I can see that now. Mr. Chair, I think I can understand that and if you want me to take that as a comment, I will, but this is one of four options that we're looking at. If this one is chosen, I think it would be important that we look at this language to make sure it's understandable.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Let me say something to the public right now. Public comments, if you want to comment on customary trade, public comments are welcome on customary trade. There are testimony forms over there. You fill that out and you could give to us. Like I say yesterday, limited time would be about four minutes to a person. This opportunity we will give you and we will take the schedule for about four minutes. John Thompson.

MR. THOMPSON: I'm kind of confused. The thing that came to my mind, is this only for this region or the other regions as well? That's number one.

MR. BOYD: Mr. Chair, Tom. All of the regional councils are reviewing this proposed rule and the alternatives, so we are looking at a set of regulations that would apply either statewide that could apply to your specific region on this subject.

MR. THOMPSON: The reason why I ask, I thought that wording was from the other regions. That's number one. Number two, in the past, State Board, I have seen species that we're talking about. Are we talking about all species of fish?

MR. BOYD: Mr. Chair, Tom. With regard to the first question, alternative three is the alternative that would have region-specific requirements, so you could add a Yukon Delta specific requirement in alternative three if that was the Council's desire. If you were to focus on your region, alternative three is the way to do that. Question two, does this affect all species of fish, the answer is yes.

MR. THOMPSON: We have two different species of fish. One has red meat and one has white meat. Some of this white meat is year round fish that are in Alaska, but red meat is the one that comes once a year, so I think those two should be separated because herring is white meat. In our language, if we make any kind of decision, let's not have it too broad to other species. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: John Hansen.

MR. HANSEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Tom, I don't know how many times I went to this customary trade with three alternatives. Customary trade. I don't know who put significant amount of cash. Customary trade never had a significant amount of cash from way back, as far as I can remember. This significant amount came from somebody. Maybe the Board of Fish, maybe the Board of Game. When I was on the Board of Game, we battled customary trade. We battled on the Fish Board customary trade. Everybody had a whole bunch of ideas and that's what this one here is. Got three different ideas, which I think will end to no good subsistence way of life at the end when it finally goes through. Everybody is going to have to be cited. This alternative one where it says take no action, that's good. Customary trade was way the hell before I was born, maybe 50 years before I was born and I was born with customary trade. You can ask an elder and they'd tell you example the same thing. Even Phillip Moses will tell you. Customary trade never had task mixed with it. I don't know. There's so many, three different options that Pete Probasco put down. I don't know if that's a good idea.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Tom.

MR. BOYD: Mr. Chair. Mr. Hansen is absolutely correct that they are three different ideas. The ideas, I think, were developed from a collaboration of many people, including representatives from each one of the Councils and the public comments we received and the comments we received from the Regional Advisory Councils. I would be the first to admit that when we started this process we had many ideas about what it should be, but we really didn't know, and that's why the Council process is so important. We want to hear from you. If we have not captured the reality of what customary trade is in any of these alternatives or ideas, then you need to tell us what it should say. You don't have to be specific about the regulatory language, but if you tell us what it means or what it should mean, we'll find the language to make sure that's appropriate. That's what this exercise is about. We want to hear from you. If we have not hit the mark, tell us what it should say.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Lester.

MR. WILDE: Mr. Chairman. Since final comments on the proposed changes to the customary trade regulations are due by November the 1st, 2002, we need to get something on the books from the Yukon-Kuskokwim Regional Advisory Council. Because of that, we drafted -- some of us got together and put our heads together and came up with a draft, but we don't know whether you're going to agree with this or not. Since I took the time

and the trouble to figure out the correct language and how to spell words, since I went to the trouble, I might as well read it. On item 11, titled customary trade within the Yukon-Kuskokwim Region. The exchange for cash of subsistence-harvested fish legally taken under Federal subsistence management regulations, unprocessed or processed using customary and traditional methods, it is permitted as customary trade as long as cash exchanges within the boundaries of the Yukon-Kuskokwim Region. I also inserted Western Interior, Eastern Interior. That's an option you can discuss.

Under Item A(12), customary trade within the Yukon-Kuskokwim region. Customary trade and barter for fish legally taken under Federal subsistence management regulations between Federally-qualified subsistence users is permitted as long as total cash amount or value sold by each household does not exceed historically-documented amounts.

Under A(13), we just took the words off of A(13) of the regular write-up stating no person or entity licensed under the State of Alaska regulations such as AS 43.75.011 to engage in fisheries business may receive for commercial purposes or barter or solicit to barter for subsistence-taken fish, their parts or their eggs. How do you like those apples?

CHAIRMAN WILDE: I think, Tom, I should give the audience an opportunity to testify. We will follow the procedure we've been doing. This is customary proposal. It's not come to be a regulation yet, so this is a proposed rule and I want you to understand we will follow the procedure and we'll give you about four minutes to testify or make comments. Tom had given the introduction. At this time I'm going to ask, Alaska Department of Fish & Game, do you have a comment to customary trade.

MR. CAMPBELL: Mr. Chairman, Members of the Council. For the record, my name is Rod Campbell, Alaska Department of Fish & Game, Division of Commercial Fisheries. On page 23 of the briefing document prepared by OSM, there is a summary of Alaska Department of Fish & Game comments. The basic comment from the Department that I would like to highlight is that the Department strongly agrees with this deferral until you get all the information from all the RACs and as many groups statewide as possible. It's a very complicated and controversial issue and we would like to see as much input as possible from everyone before this decision is made. We do have some concerns. They are listed on page 23. There may be some more that come up during this process. But, again, just to emphasize, we are waiting to hear from all the councils and different groups around the state before we make our final recommendations.

MR. JOHNSON: Good afternoon. Our vice president Allen Joseph was going to be here today to talk about customary trade, but he's in a meeting right now, so he wasn't able to attend and sends his apologies.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Before you do, give us your name and who you represent.

MR. JOHNSON: I'm sorry. My name is Eric Johnson and I'm here for AVCP. I've spoken before you back last February and in May, here in Bethel, about customary trade issue. As we discussed in May, ACVP's full board -- I'm sorry, back in March, I think it was, ACVP's full board did adopt the position at the ACVP's special convention in March that cash sales of subsistence-caught fish should not be allowed outside of rural Alaska. From the description of the proposal that all of you have been working on, that Lester Wilde read, it sounds to me like that proposal pretty closely approximates what the ACVP full board recommended back in March. It ensures that sales of subsistence-caught fish would be limited to the Y-K Delta, Eastern Interior and Western Interior. It sounds to me like this is pretty close to what ACVP has recommended and what the full board felt was consistent with custom and tradition. That's all I have to say unless there's some questions.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Eric, we had AVCP's resolution. That's how we were looking at when we were looking at how we tried to twist it around to make sure Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta area with the support of ACVP because they represent 56 villages and we tried to put it where everybody would feel comfortable with, but there are some that we really completely didn't agree with some things.

The information that's presented now by Council here, that would have to be still worked on because we were just dealing with a proposed rule. We were looking at our young people and their future. If I could tell you why some things we didn't follow generation to generation, if you look at customary trade, they never have a customary trade generation to generation. Mostly it the people looking at this barter. Barter, some elders, they didn't quite understand. They say why they had customary trade. Even though we have already bartered, the wording of that is clearer than customary trade languages and elders know that there's a little bit of money they could. Today is not like generation to generation. Today everything is different. You got outboard motor. All that stuff you need to get gas with. So that's why we tried to shift it around and look at AVCP resolutions.

MR. NOTTI: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Dario Notti, also with AVCP. I don't have much to add other than that the resolution seemed silent on any amount. It didn't have a dollar amount for rural residents. It just said no trade with non-rural residents.

MR. MOSES: (In Yup'ik)

INTERPRETER: Phillip Moses from Toksook Bay. Those of us need this. Perhaps you don't want to hear what I have to state. The people before us, how they perceive this system of barter. Our counterparts to this state have not given us any acceptable written statement related to this matter, but our ancestral people are understanding of this bartering and he was born when this was strongly in focus, everything practiced as well. When he was born, all of the villages at the time he was a young person, they didn't have any council of any kind. They were just being in harmony together in a sound and peaceful manner because they all had one

thought in mind, work together and reading to one another. They were living in harmony and peace.

You said earlier something about the whole community celebrating when a man wants to feed the whole community all of the subsistence- caught food, it was brought to the sweatbath houses, to the community center and then from there, all that food from one man is distributed among the community, is what they call celebration or ceremonial purpose. So that's the way they practice it.

Today, what he is hearing, as he view this practice, suppose if you see on a high school student and he is successful and he's trained to do well in his life, he uses that as how an individual -- if our counterparts teach a young man how to live a western life in society in their own way, they are not going to teach him the way of the Eskimo living. He's going to be learning the way of the Western society, but those of them that didn't have any schooling at all, they were taught to live the way their ancestral people have lived and they take their young people out into the fields, teaching them the ropes and the methods and ways to gain access to those resources. By taking the young man out, you don't have to say all the fancy words to make him learn, but you take the young man out for himself to focus on things and how the practice is done. If a young man is taught by a Western person, he will definitely learn the Western way of life, but not subsistence way of living. Those of us who have lived this manner of living, when we teach our young people, we take them out to the field and teach them how to do things that we've learned from our forefathers so that way he will learn the way we do things and the subsistence way of obtaining food from the resources around us.

All of the people that he has taught, the forefathers didn't have any modern tools like rifles, snowmachines, outboard motors, but everything they had were crude tools that they, themselves made, kayaks. There was no other method. All of the methods that they were using were self-taught, suited to be used in the region where they live. Those resources that are caught were mainly to be used in the community. There was no freezers at that time. Most of the resources that they caught were mostly dried for long-term use.

Last year the Yukon and Kuskokwim, the people who have subsisted on salmon or any particular type of salmon, they sometimes had to be given seasonal openings. It's sad to see that these subsistence hunters or subsistence practices had to be seasoned in part. When he was born, there was no -- sometimes it saddens the men that they had to be blocked from practicing their own way of living. The Yukon and Kuskokwim people, like when they had dog teams and the dogs themselves were eating the same food that were caught for subsistence. They knew well that the dogs themselves had to survive in order to assist the people in the communities. Because in the winter time, after the land had frozen solid, any kind of fish were hard to obtain. At this day and age though, from what I have been hearing from yesterday, we are hearing that all of our resources are declining to the overharvest or whatnot. Some years the Eskimos know that

there is hardly any food because they don't come all in big chunks some years. They never have any thought about how low the stocks or how resources were year to year. We were catching them as much as we can to meet our needs. I guess he's relating to some years are plenty, some years are lean.

And this barter and trade, it has been a practicing method of the Natives of the region, is barter. The people of the region. Sometimes the are not the same are not available within the Interior the type of available fish and resources that the Interior communities have. That way for other sources of food, so that's the way those people traded from coastal communities to the interior villages. Like the interior people, like villages around here, they don't have access to seal oil like we have on the coast and these people pray for the seal oil. When the trading is being done with those people, these people don't have ocean animals. All of the villages, they hunt the birds, waterfowl, and then they reserve the skins of the villages and they trade. The young duck skins are traded for seal oil that were caught further inland. That's the rule I've watched in those days. It was trade for trade, for food for food, and that caused them to live harmoniously. At this day and age, it is still in practice.

Now that the money has come up to our way of life, that little portion is being used as well. He doesn't like our counterparts who seems to have always a lot more money than we do. He doesn't want that dollar sign to be implied on the Natives for food, but enough for a man, if hasn't got enough, like he has a snowmachine perhaps, he needs to have a few dollars to buy gas so he can go out and check stuff and whatnot. He cannot read and you can blabber away in your Western language, but he will never be able to understand it. If you understand the writings of the Western society people, you perhaps understand it and read it to us that cannot read. These Natives that can read and understand, they, themselves, feel uncomfortable about the way things are written into laws. It is hard for the Natives that understand these, it is hard for them to relate them to the people that don't understand. It's difficult because it's not the way they live.

So those of you that make these rules and those rules are becoming a reality to us, exposed to us, no matter how much we hate to apply to those rules, we reluctantly have to follow. Why? Because our ancestral people, it was the way they lived. So that's the extent of his comment in relating to the bargaining method.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Quyana, Phillip. Next organization, Frank Charles.

Mr. CHARLES: Good afternoon, Mr. Chairman, Members of the Council. My name is Frank Charles. I'm the co-chairman of the Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Working Group. I'd like to speak on behalf of that organization or group and myself. This last year when this issue was brought to our attention and our consideration, we, of course, as

many other groups, discussed that at some length. We're somewhat confused about the concept, of course, and some of the language that was initially forwarded to us. As I recall, we were concerned about this notion of significant amounts of money. As I recall, our discussion centered around those people in need and those folks who would sell them subsistence-caught salmon and if they did, they would only sell the fish in order to compensate them for the expenses and time that they incurred while catching that salmon and that the salmon just be sold to those in need and within the area. We would agree to that. And we also understood that the matter was to be deferred and we were hoping for another opportunity and waiting for other input to gain further ideas. As I recall also, the folks upriver were going to have that opportunity and our representatives from even Western Interior through Mr. Ray Collins, Mr. Wayne Morgan and others. At the time, they were to give us the information for our consideration and to see what action we would take at the time. As I recall, we really did not take any action because I believe it was extended rather than deferred. We would wait to see what others had to say because we, like you at this time, were lacking in information and understanding about the issue at hand and most especially how it fits within the cultural context.

Having said that, I'd like to speak with respect as an individual if I may, Mr. Chairman. Firstly to Mr. Wilde's proposal. I would have a problem with this notion of tying it in with historical amounts. Any time I hear that, it opens up another can of worms, especially if you attempt to find documented incidents or instances of customary trade for cash at historical amounts, I don't know if there would be very much of that available. For my own family's experience with respect to compensating others for subsistence-caught salmon, that's happened in our family. We only felt it was expedient to just tell them in person and vocally what it is we felt was appropriate and generally it wasn't very much. But as far as documenting it and having it on a piece of paper, I'm not sure. Between individuals, I'm sure you may be able to find it in some record or another because Western culture has a lot of paper, I know, and I see it in front of you, and I'm sure you'll find it there somewhere.

As far as a significant amount -- as a commercial fisherman or a representative of the Kusko Fish Co-op, with respect to Mary Gregory's comments about an individual selling to a non-profit entity of one kind or another, I would have a problem with that because generally they seek amounts that are fairly significant in today's terms and would benefit those who make a living on fishing for others for an income to be able to sell those types of entities because, as you know, our commercial fisheries here on the Kuskokwim, even the Yukon, is in dire straits and those people need to have every opportunity they can to find markets and certainly we've considered in my work and other discussion with them the need to identify additional markets. I always go back to one of John Hansen's old buddies, Virgil Umpenhour, the best market is those that have no choice. Certainly we have a lot of that out here and we can find ways for our commercial industry, which is an important and vital component of our economy to be able to benefit from that and be part of a socially responsible entity and group.

Overall, I think the notion of customary trade is a difficult one. I personally would prefer option number two, but I would have a problem with -- I'm sorry, I don't have that material in front of me. Just like when it was brought up to the working group, there was nothing sent to us previously, it was just dropped in our lap and I just got this dropped in my lap. Having given it a little bit of thought, that seems to be the most plausible and workable, at least from my experience with my families and relatives and those I know who have engaged in customary trade for small amounts of cash now and in the past, I think it may work.

Again, one big problem, if I recall some of the wording correctly, is with respect to what are significant amounts of cash. I recall Mr. Harry Wilde's comments and Mr. Hansen's comments about what was done in the past. Those were small amounts of cash, but in today's terms and rates, I think you need to take that into account. These are, as you recognize yourself, changing times. I think we need to acknowledge the fact that it does occur, even if we may culturally and socially feel that it's not appropriate.

But in these dire times, without mentioning any names, even just recently I've run across a couple of incidents where, because of the family's or household's circumstances, felt that they've been able to just get by, do that type of thing you're attempting to resolve for everyone. I think you need to take that into account in the discussion because it is happening, it has happened and it's likely to continue to happen, especially with the state of our commercial fisheries where incomes are limited.

We need to recognize that if there are limitations imposed that they have to be done very carefully and I'd like the notion that you can somehow incorporate on a case-by-case basis and thereby modifying the regulations to accommodate that would probably help in the long term for developing the base or framework for regulatory language for this concept to allow it to grow and develop and refine itself through our experience and continued involvement in the process.

I know you've heard it time and time again. I recall now, after talking about it out loud, that there have been a number of instances, through the working group at least, where we've discussed it and I think it's an idea that's alien to us, but we have to live with it. Let's be careful about it. I would recommend that you folks recommend to the Federal Subsistence Board that we don't come down to very specific, concrete language, although make any attempts to identify it and define it, but let it evolve over time. I think that's the most reasonable way to go about doing it. The reason I say that is that you, yourself, Mr. Chairman, have pointed out in a number of other regulations and things that have been forwarded and implemented, that they've had unintended and, in many cases, detrimental effects on not just individuals but communities and families. In this case, this could be one of those things where many people and individuals could be dramatically affected.

As you know, and I think Mr. Moses and others have pointed out, we do, as Yup'ik people and rural residents tend to be law-abiding, culturally sensitive and mindful of what we have been taught by our elders and in recognition of that I think you need to, as I said, take these kinds of things on a case-by-case basis, develop the guiding framework language and let it evolve. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you. Is Greg Roczicka here? If he's not, does anyone here have a public comment who wants to speak or comment on behalf of customary trade? If he's not, Mike Moses. Again, one more time, Mike Moses. I think Mike Moses went home. If there's any more comments on customary trade, we are authorized to make recommendation and confirm, recommendation and take action from Regional Advisory Council.

MR. McCANN: (In Yup'ik)

INTERPRETER: Those of us Natives that are here do understand what it means to barter and trade. The dollar value is the culprit to this topic like Phillip Moses has stated. This has been in practice for many, many years, way long before Phillip Moses was born too. But adding something to the system is causing a problem. This dollar value is the culprit of it. Some of the villages, this bartering idea is like owned by the villages themselves because they have practiced this method for many, many years and they understand it. When this first came about, when they wanted to add a little money, not a significant amount, because modern day a guy or young man would have to use an outboard motor, use his gas and that costs money, so a little cash added to it is not that harmful addition to this practice as long as it's not significant. If the people in the villages understand and let their councils know rather than adding so much confusion to this method, send them a letter that let's them know the cash can be added to this type of bartering so long as it does not get into a significant amount.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah, Bill, try to respond some of your comments. Go village by village. Some time ago they send out copies of customary trade, 229 copies to Tribal. Out of 229 copies, requests for comments, only three comments come back from Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta. Still just about that many right now. So how some of us we feel -- I don't know what happened to it. Maybe they threw it away before they presented to other Tribal councils.

MR. McCANN: Harry, it sounds like most of the village don't want to change anything. We got only a few comments. Most of the village doesn't want to answer that. They don't want it, I think.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Let me ask Tom Boyd, will you come here at the table. I think, Tom, we need your help. It looks like most of our people still don't quite understand what customary trade is. Because of when we have a meeting, Council request till April and me and Mary went over there, we really work hard, try to pursue that date, but find out now that the Board extend it, but it only goes to November 1st, my understanding. If the Board is going to work on it and customary trade comments only till

November 1st, 2002, I don't know what we're going to do. I suppose Council will try to do something. What my question is, Tom, you heard some of the comments that still nothing is really coming in. People are still to understand. When you hear our elder over there talking, he still don't understand customary trade. What should we do? We need your help and you're there in the office. We want you to respond.

MR. BOYD: In some ways, I feel caught in the middle. Clearly the board is trying to make a decision and the Board has basically, at least for right now, has a plan to make that decision in January and I'm here to convey that to you, that that's the Board's plans. The Board did extend or defer it's decision from last May in order to give the people all over the state more time. It's unfortunate that that has not happened or at least some in this region it has not happened where they have provided a lot of input to you. I don't know what to do about that. It may happen if we extend it another year. We would be in the same place one year from now. I don't know, but it's possible. So I'm not sure that I can help you, Mr. Chair, with regard to that problem.

I have heard some things today in terms of options you may wish to recommend to the Board that sort of have a consistent theme. I've heard from Lester Wilde and the recommendation I guess several of you came up with. I've heard from AVCP and there seemed to be some consistency in that. And then we heard also from Mr. Frank Charles and there seemed to be some thoughts there that you could deal with. I will say that even if you use those ideas and come up with a recommendation from the Council, it probably won't be the last time that you have an opportunity to provide a recommendation to the Board. It's like so many of our regulations. Even though we have regulations on the books about hunting and fishing a particular area for moose or caribou or for fishing, every year those regulations come back for review by you and others, so it's true with this regulation as well. So you may choose to recommend something now and then think about it and discuss it in your villages and then come back in a year, two years, three years to see how it's working and you may also recommend changes at that time. So this isn't the last time you have a chance to review this issue. I'm not sure that that helped very much, but that's the best answer I can give you right now.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mary.

MS. GREGORY: (In Yup'ik)

INTERPRETER: Ever since the customary trade subject had been brought up before us, those of us that are elders sometimes we don't know which way to turn and something we don't like to make decisions without consulting with the other village elders. We have given them an opportunity to respond to this question. We have to make the decision for them. We have given them the opportunity to comment. Sometimes some people just stand there and when one individual stands and makes the decision, those that have been silent, watching the process go through, then they're excited about it after it becomes a reality. This affects Yukon and

Kuskokwim people. Why are those people out there are not responding to this matter when it's time for them to come forward?

MS. GREGORY: I think we have given them ample time, Mr. Chairman, to comment and we can't hold out our arms for that much longer. We needed to get going. Tom said we could always change the law. Once the law is made, it's subject to be changed. It's not the lights out. (In Yup'ik)

INTERPRETER: Just like I stated earlier, that's why they have given this extension. If we make the decision right now, it will be okay.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah, I think Tom remembers when I become first Council for Federal Subsistence Board, when we have a meeting over 10 years ago, I give the writing about myself to the Board why I am serving here, not think about too much money. I did it for our children. I put that in black and white and I put it on the record. I said it's not for the benefit for myself, only for the children out there every day who has been crying hungry, that's what I said in that letter. So it will always be hard for me to try to make a decision for the people that I represent. So, like what Mary say, yes, we do everything to move it over at the meeting in Anchorage, so I'm going to ask the Council, this letter that we have or the recommendation the Council have, this recommendation could be -- when it come to be a regulation, it could be worked on the same as other regulations. You could change it around. If you don't like it, you could change it around. That way I suppose it would be more hurt by the organizations, so that's why I'm saying right now, but I'm going to ask the rest of the Council to say something. Lester.

MR. WILDE: Mr. Chairman, my feeling is that since the customary trade regulation comments are due by the first of November, it doesn't give us very much time. We need to recommend something to the Board and it's got to be something that we can change and something that we can live with. As far as the concern about historical documented amounts, the reason why it's in there is because there are no documented cash amounts in all the historical documents that I've ever read. But there must be something somewhere. The historical documented amounts, whenever they talk about trade, that's what they talk about, trade with one essential for another.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Bill.

MR. McCANN: Yeah, Harry, like a little while ago I said something about we knew all this, we understand that. You said something about you sending out 200 copies already and you got three of them back. (In Yup'ik)

INTERPRETER: The number of documents that you send out requesting for their comments, this is our way of life, it should not be changed. I think that was their idea of them not responding. He would like to make a motion. To make it at least -- extend it for at least one more year.

MR. McCANN: What's going to happen in a year again?
Try it again. (In Yup'ik)

INTERPRETER: These communities and the outlying villages will blame us for making a decision behind their backs. Don't rush into this matter. Feed it in gradually. Let it keep going for another year. How would that be?

CHAIRMAN WILDE: John Hansen.

MR. HANSEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'd like to ask Tom a question. Sorry to let you stand up and sit down.

MR. BOYD: I need my exercise, Mr. Hansen.

MR. HANSEN: Last, I don't know when, Mary and Harry went into Anchorage on this, the three options they worked on. Actually, the options were already done and they asked for an extension to April of 2003. The Board didn't approve that 2003 and they just put November 2002?

MR. BOYD: That's correct, Mr. Hansen. The reason is that there are some Board members that would like to see a regulation in place next year. If we waited until April, then it would be 2004 before we could put a regulation in place or change the regulation. Some Board members want to see change sooner. They feel that the current regulation has a loophole in it. But the use of the term significant commercial enterprise does not have any meaning. They think it's too abstract, too obscure. Therefore, they want to continue to allow what has occurred for a long time, generations to generations, but at the same time prevent someone from taking advantage and abusing the regulation and use subsistence as a commercial activity. So some of the members of the Board would like to see some change made this next year and that's why they made it November because that's the last time the Board could accept comments and then go through the process of evaluating those comments. That's a lot of staff work. The Board then make a decision in January and then have a regulation in place by April.

MR. HANSEN: Thank you, Tom. I'll say it in my native tongue. I'll say it better and Phillip will understand better. We've got translators that can translate it into English.

(In Yup'ik)

INTERPRETER: Harry and Mary, when they went to Anchorage April 2003 (sic), the Regional Board, if they state this in April or March, the recommendation would become into the books or into the law in 2004. What Harry stated, 200 some tribes, only three responses were received. John Hansen's traditional tribe and they haven't even met together relating to the matter. They probably received a letter, but they haven't gotten together with this on their agenda, so he doesn't even know what kind of response that they are prepared give. Two hundred and some odd questionnaires that went out into the community and only three were returned. This particular customary trade, as he understands it, this has been in practice from time immemorial. It stays in this documentation.

This customary trade is mangled with cash trade. Us Natives don't use that. This customary trade is bartering, not even thinking about money. The money in this discussion is the culprit. So this customary trade has to be separate. We do understand customary trade, food for food trade. It's just like that. Barter is another. Money for subsistence-caught food. Our counterparts have it written down, significant commercial enterprise. That's not the way the Natives understand it. We understand it as a trade, food for food. This November 1 is coming fast. The decision can be made, but it can be amended another time, maybe a year from now or maybe two years from now. So use that number one option. Try it out and maybe we'll understand better after it has become law. Put that money out of the way and fix it in the future in a year or two.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: We'll probably take a break now and come back to it after a short break.

(Off record)

(On record)

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Greg. Customary trade.

MR. ROCZICKA: Mr. Chairman, Greg Roczicka with Orutsararmiut Native Council. I laid out what AVCP's position was and tried to explain a convoluted set of papers to them and gave them the history that was involved and by that time I believe they were feeling overwhelmed, but they felt comfortable with AVCP's position on the customary trade issue and followed that recommendation. Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you, Greg. Mary.

MS. GREGORY: I want to make a correction for the record. On page 18 of the supplemental materials on customary trade, under paragraph 12, that little blurb that says customary trade is unknown in the Yup'ik culture and it should not be allowed now is a false statement. Can you note that for the record. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: James Charles.

MR. CHARLES: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think we have given people enough time and we decide not to act on that proposal and give it to AVCP and John Hansen said people don't know about it, but the AVCP mini convention in March talked about this customary trade, so people are aware of it. Not everybody, but some. I think we should act on the customary trade now. So I would choose alternative one now because we could change it later on. Like with other regulations, when we decide we don't like it, we make a proposal. Anybody can make a proposal to change a regulation when it's passed, so I would choose alternative one now. Or I could make a motion to use alternative one.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Are you making a motion to the floor?
How are you making a motion?

MR. CHARLES: I'll use alternative one for now.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Will you repeat that number one alternative?

MR. TIKIUN: Mr. Chairman, I'd like to second that motion.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: The motion has been seconded.

MR. NICK: Mr. Chairman, I'm not sure if I understood your direction. Are you asking me to rephrase Mr. Charles' motion?

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah, Charles' motion, I think it would be good if we understand what the words are saying. Read number one.

MR. CHARLES: Everyone has the document I'm going to try to summarize what alternative one says. (In Yup'ik)

INTERPRETER: This alternative leaves the status quo. This particular option would mean that that's the status quo, which permits customary trade unless it results in significant commercial enterprise in the future. Any perceived abuses would be addressed on a case-by-case basis with the appropriate regulatory changes. This would be responsive to comments questioning the need for any regulations or change to present regulations regarding customary trade. That's the way he understands it.

MR. CHARLES: For the audience, what I was doing, they wanted to hear the language of alternative number one, which is to take no action, and I just summarized that in Yup'ik. I never got to the current regulation section of it. Harry Wilde wants us to interpret that into Yup'ik for the elder that just stepped out.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: There was a motion. Lester.

MR. WILDE: When you're going for one, are you saying you take no action or are you saying go with the current regulations?

MR. CHARLES: Just like it is now, take no action.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mary.

MS. GREGORY: (In Yup'ik)

INTERPRETER: This current regulations are related and added on to the question.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Lester.

MR. WILDE: Since we've heard of some problems they've had with that significant commercial enterprise, would it be alright to change that where it states not constitute a significant commercial enterprise to insert the words not to exceed historically documented amounts?

MS. GREGORY: (In Yup'ik)

INTERPRETER: (Not translated)

MS. GREGORY: I was just saying that the current regulations stipulated that customary trade does not exceed or constitute a significant commercial enterprise and Mr. Lester Wilde's question was to include his wording on the alternative resolution he presented earlier. I don't think it's possible to change the current regulation here, but I was telling Mr. Charles that he could stipulate that with his motion.

MR. WILDE: My thoughts were, Mr. Chairman, that this Council had the ability to make recommendations. Since we're making recommendations to go along with the current regulations as is, for the record, I would like to have this Council recommend that customary trade is allowed so long as it does not exceed historically documented amounts.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Go ahead, Don.

MR. RIVARD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Don Rivard with the Office of Subsistence Management. Procedurally, if the Council now decides that they would like to go with Mr. Wilde's language, you do have a motion and it was seconded in front of you, you need to vote on that or have the person withdraw that. You could turn it down and then go with Mr. Lester Wilde's proposal. It would no longer be alternative one, it would be the Council's own recommendation just to change the wording in the regulation.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Go ahead, translate.

INTERPRETER: (Translating into Yup'ik)

MS. GREGORY: Mr. Chairman, the motion maker has to withdraw his original motion in order to make another one that will include this one, is that correct?

MR. RIVARD: Don Rivard here just to clarify. I know it's getting a little confusing here now. The reason I suggested possibly withdrawing the original motion is because the motion was to adopt alternative one. If you change it, then it's no longer alternative one, it's a separate alternative, so I thought the easiest thing to do is just withdraw that proposal and make a new one.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: James.

MR. CHARLES: Mr. Chairman, for that purpose, I withdraw my motion.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: James Charles withdrew his motion. How about his second?

MR. TIKIUN: I'd like to go ahead and withdraw my second on that motion, too.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Next to him, Mr. Tikiun also withdrew his second to the motion. Lester.

MR. WILDE: Mr. Chairman, I'd like to propose that the recommendations coming from the Yukon Regional Advisory Council be as follows. The limited exchange for cash subsistence harvest, harvested fish, their parts or their eggs, legally taken under Federal subsistence management regulations to support personal and family needs is permitted as customary trade so long as it does not exceed historically documented amounts. The Board may recognize regional difference and define customary trade differently for separate regions of the state. Item 12. Individuals, businesses or organizations may not purchase subsistence-taken fish, their parts or their eggs for use in or resale to a significant commercial enterprise. If they are going to have problems with significant commercial enterprise, we'll come up with language next year. Item 13. Individuals, businesses or organizations may not receive through barter subsistence-taken fish, their parts or their eggs for use in or resale to a significant commercial enterprise. My motion, Mr. Chairman.

MS. GREGORY: Second.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: There's a motion on the floor and seconded by Mary. Discussion. John Hansen.

MR. HANSEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Lester, who has the historical amount of cash, the Federal or ADF&G?

MR. WILDE: There was one book written that was by Father Fox where he mentioned the fact that he had bought some chum salmon in the Hooper Bay area for 25 cents a piece and that was the only customary trade that had a price to it that I've read. Since I'm not privy to the newfangled research material, I don't have the ability to be able to investigate the historical amounts.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Lester, I said that before when I was about 13 years old. I'm 73 right now. Father Fox in Hooper Bay. I never seen anybody trade fish with the cash. He had a dog team, over 20 teams, a Catholic priest. So in order to get the dogs to survive that winter, he buy dog salmon for 25 cents a piece. That's the only time I've known fish was traded with cash.

MR. THOMPSON: The only trade I've seen ever since I was a kid, the trader has no cash. They have what they call bangles and their trademark is written right there. That's the only kind of money I seen. The late '40s when we started to see cash when they went to canneries.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: John Hansen.

MR. HANSEN: I agree with Lester on his friendly amendment to the first part. I think that would really help. I talked with Tom Boyd on a break and asked him once we adopt alternative one, if in one or two years we want to come back and redo it, and he said if we want to do

it in one year, we make a proposal to change and this will give the traditional councils in our homes to get together with the elders or the whole village, explain all this and then by the time we make the proposal to revisit alternative one after a year we'll be approved to present to the Regional Board that this one has to be in there.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Lester.

MR. WILDE: To go a little bit further, Mr. Chairman, there are a lot of history books concerning the state of Alaska written by Russians before Alaska became a state to the days of the war where there is documents as to the amounts that may be considered customary trade. As John stated, in those days they didn't trade for money, they traded for bangles.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any more discussion from Council?

MR. WILDE: Question.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: The question has been called for.
Roll call.

MR. TIKIUN: Harry Wilde.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yes.

MR. TIKIUN: John Hansen.

MR. HANSEN: Yes.

MR. TIKIUN: Mary Gregory.

MS. GREGORY: Yes.

MR. TIKIUN: Billy McCann.

MR. McCANN: Yes.

MR. TIKIUN: James Charles.

MR. CHARLES: Yes.

MR. TIKIUN: Phillip Moses.

MR. MOSES: Yes.

MR. TIKIUN: Lester Wilde.

MR. WILDE: Yes.

MR. TIKIUN: John Thompson.

MR. THOMPSON: Yes.

MR. TIKIUN: Thad Tikiun. Yes. Motion carried unanimously.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: That was the heaviest one we've ever done. Next on our agenda is Division of Commercial Fisheries. Maybe to be combined with Division of Subsistence. Is Mike here?

MR. COFFING: Doug Bue was here earlier. He had to take Rod Campbell to the airport. I really don't have much to offer here. I wanted to briefly update you with what we've been doing since we met the last time and give you a bit of an update. Last spring, working with Kuskokwim Native Association, we began to do surveys in the community of Aniak and Chuathbaluk to learn more about subsistence uses on the Aniak River by people in Aniak and Chuathbaluk. So we surveyed most all of the households in both Aniak and Chuathbaluk, hiring staff from the Kuskokwim Native Association. I trained them. They did surveys to learn what those two communities were harvesting in terms of fish; what types of fish, what kind of gear they were using, what seasons, times of year they were harvesting them, amounts they were harvesting and gear types. We also wanted to learn more about other subsistence uses, so we surveyed them about harvest of other resources as well and other kinds of activities they used.

In addition to that Wayne Morgan and I did some interviews with some local experts in those communities to find out what the elders know about fish, behavior of fish, distribution, abundance, changes in populations, so we hope to have that information available for the Council sometime in the future. We plan to do similar surveys this next winter, next spring, for a second year of data collection. I know that's outside of your area, but close to it. So that was this spring.

In the summertime there was some in-season monitoring projects going on on the Kuskokwim to talk to subsistence salmon fishers. I won't go into detail with that. Greg Roczicka is here. He may address that. But that project involved the McGrath Native Village Council, Kuskokwim Native Association, Orutsararmiut Native Council here in Bethel. They would talk to folks during fishing season and that information was used weekly by the salmon working group. My involvement there, Subsistence Division's involvement was helping with the design of the survey instrument and training of the staff.

We had some Yukon River residents and Agency Staff and Fish & Wildlife involved in that training as well as YRDFA and I think the time we did that training in Bethel here in early June we had about 20 different participants learning how to do those in-season surveys.

Currently, we're involved in doing salmon harvest surveys and fish harvest surveys here in the Kuskokwim drainage. We do those surveys every year after salmon fishing is over with. There are three technicians working for the Department of Fish & Game that are traveling to the villages. There are also three technicians hired by ONC here in Bethel that are doing household surveys in Bethel. The surveys in Bethel will

include all other fish as well. Anything that is harvested by residents in the community.

In Aniak, the Kuskokwim Native Association is doing surveys in that community. This is one of the FIS funded projects and this is the first year the Kuskokwim Native Association is doing surveys in Aniak to gather fish harvest data. So some of the survey work that the Department of Fish & Game Subsistence Division has done in Aniak and Bethel now we're training staff from other Native organizations to gather that data, so they're involved very much in that. In Aniak we're grabbing data on all fish, even lamprey, so it's not just whitefish and salmon and trout, but we're gathering data on all kinds of fish that are harvested there.

That information from Aniak and Bethel and the other villages should be available probably early spring, late winter. So I may not have estimates of harvest for you when we meet again, but I should have some information probably more towards April to give you an idea of what was taken out here. I think that wraps up what I have. I might mention one thing. There are some communities that we get very little salmon harvest information from. Some communities that we would like to include in our surveys and I know that all of you on the Kuskokwim that I see and the Yukon as well are pretty good about filling out your salmon harvest calendar and answering questions from staff at your house, but there are several communities that we're not able to survey. If you have thoughts or ideas on how we can work with those communities, I'm thinking primarily of Nelson Island communities, any ideas on how we can work closer with those communities to learn how their subsistence harvest is going, I would sure welcome ideas on that. We continue to send calendars out to them and get very few back. I'll take any questions you might have.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Council, do you have questions for Mike? Mr. Charles.

MR. CHARLES: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mike, I used to see survey crew going to smoke houses and counting fish in the smoke houses. They go house to house in November. Has that worked for you? I don't know how many fish I put away if I don't look at that calendar. That calendar helps me with how many fish I caught. I used to see some of your crew counting fish in the smoke houses. I think that was close. Does that work for you?

MR. COFFING: Yeah, years ago smokehouse counts were used. We haven't done that for quite some time. We try to go out and ask harvest questions after people were done fishing. In some communities people aren't done until October, still fishing for cohos. So unless we do it a couple times a year, we do a count in July and then one later in the season. We just have to be careful we don't count the fish two times. It can be tough sometimes, but I appreciate the thoughts.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Lester.

MR. WILDE: Mike, there is a fool-proof way of doing it. The way we do it in Hooper Bay, we hire a technician funded by Office

of Subsistence Management to go around and actually meet the boats as they come in to take the count of the fish. That's how we do it in Hooper Bay and you get an absolutely accurate count of subsistence fish taken in that area. So if you want an accurate count, I'd advise you to put in a proposal to whoever it is that gives out the money to see if you can hire a technician that lives right in the village to do it.

MR. COFFING: Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Lester, for the suggestion. I think that could have worked in some communities. It might work well in Quinhagak. Maybe Goodnews. It wouldn't work in Bethel. People are spread out in fish camps. It may work in some communities we're doing now.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you, Mike. Before I call the organizations, I'm going to follow this agenda here. Association Village Council present and will be first, Kuskokwim Native Association, ONC, other organization, tribal representatives, original village cooperation representatives, written reports, handouts, no horrible presentations to original Advisory Council members, information only. So right now, Association Village Council president. Allen or Eric or who is going to take it?

MR. JOSEPH: Allen Joseph for AVCP. This is Eric Johnson, he's our tribal rights attorney and we have a presentation to make, a statement to make concerning customary trade and calling for a lifting of the subsistence fishing schedule that has been imposed upon the Y-K Delta in the last couple years. I'm extremely tired right now. I didn't get much sleep last night, so I'd like Eric to continue afterwards and has been keeping up to date on where the discussion is going. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you, Allen. Eric.

MR. JOHNSON: Good afternoon everybody. Eric Johnson with AVCP. There were two issues that we'd like to discuss with you today in our organizational report. First of all, yesterday, at the AVCP annual convention, there was about two hours of discussion on fisheries issues with the tribal delegates there and some lively discussion about the subsistence restriction. At the end of that discussion, during the resolutions, a resolution was introduced by one of the tribal delegates and voted on and passed that calls for a lifting of the subsistence fishing schedule. A number of tribal delegates and elders in attendance testified that the subsistence fishing schedule is at odds with their customary and traditional fishing practices. There was a great deal of irritation expressed about various aspects of Federal and State management. One of the issues that was discussed at the convention yesterday was the fact that this entire time that subsistence fishing families have been asked to live under restrictive subsistence schedules on the Kuskokwim and the Yukon. The sportfish issue has not been addressed by State and Federal managers. People were irritated that they are being asked to fish on a highly restrictive schedule at the same time that nothing is being done about sportfishing. Sportfishing has been allowed to go seven days a week.

The resolution that was passed covers a number of concerns that were discussed by the delegates in yesterday's discussion. One of them are the two I just mentioned. As you're aware of this summer, ONC and KNA introduced a special action request that was voted on by the Federal Subsistence Board in June to at least tie the sportfishing schedule to the subsistence schedule and the Federal Subsistence Board reversed on that in July. This has been an issue that AVCP has tried to warn both State and Federal managers about. I was at the January 2001 Board of Fisheries meeting. At the time delegates for -- people who were in attendance from the villages on the Kuskokwim and the Yukon did not fight against the proposed changes to the State regulations that put the subsistence schedules in place. At that time I think there was more a consensus that people were willing to give those schedules a try. I think it took a lot of courage by the people who were there from the village to not oppose those subsistence schedules.

What we've seen at AVCP since then is a lot of the support that these schedules had has disappeared and we have spoken with Federal and State managers and tried to warn them if they didn't deal with issues like the sportfishing that popular support for these schedules was going to disappear. That's what we saw at the convention. People are tired of these schedules. They want to go back to seven day a week customary and traditional subsistence fishing. They want to be able to fish in June. They don't want elders to have to put their setnets in and out every week and AVCP has now -- another issue that was discussed are the concerns people have about the way State regulations and, by adoption, the Federal regulations, tie improved subsistence opportunity to commercial management decisions.

The way the regulations are written right now, people are stuck with the schedule unless there's a commercial opening on the Kuskokwim and actual commercial fishing periods on the Yukon. This summer what that meant on the Yukon is that folks in Districts Y-1 and Y-2 were allowed to have a better subsistence fishing schedule only for those weeks in which they had commercial fishing periods. As soon as the commercial fishing periods were over, State and Federal managers told them you have to go back to the restrictive openings per week subsistence schedule. They don't want subsistence management decisions to be an afterthought to commercial management decisions or sport management decisions.

So this resolution was passed yesterday. It does make it the formal position of AVCP that AVCP opposes the subsistence fishing schedules, particularly when State and Federal managers are prioritizing non-subsistence uses of salmon over subsistence and it also resolves that the subsistence fishing schedule should be lifted immediately starting in the 2003 fishing season and all future years. And, if necessary, further action will be considered by AVCP's member tribes.

That's one of two issues I briefly wanted to summarize and I know that wasn't very brief. The other issue I wanted to summarize and I'm addressing all of you as individual RAC members because this actually concerns litigation against the Federal Subsistence Board, so I can't directly discuss this case with the Federal Staff here and I just want

to make that clear on the record that I'm talking to those of you sitting here who are RAC members. I'm not addressing any Federal Staff in this room. To speak directly about this lawsuit I would need people from the U.S. Attorney General's Office present because I'm an attorney representing two tribes in this lawsuit against the Federal Subsistence Board.

There's a lawsuit that was filed about three years ago called Safari Club v. Demientieff. This was a lawsuit brought by sport hunting groups challenging a couple things, customary and traditional use determinations that have been made by the Federal Subsistence Board. They're saying the whole process by which these determinations have been made are flawed and that all 180 determinations that have been made are flawed. More particularly, they're trying to claim that the Regional Advisory Councils are all biased, that the Regional Advisory Councils don't reflect a true mix of the interests in the given regions that your Regional Advisory Councils represent. At the time, it looked like this lawsuit would be adequately defended by the U.S. Attorney General's Office. However, some things happened this summer that gave AVCP considerable concern about that. In particular, in July, the Federal Subsistence Board announced that they proposed 30 percent of the Regional Advisory Council seats be reserved specifically for people who would not represent subsistence interest. That 30 percent should be left for people who would specifically be on these Regional Advisory Councils to either represent sport or commercial interests and that it wasn't enough to say that individual RAC members are also commercial fishing permit holders. My question is that probably most of you hold commercial permits. The notion that commercial interests have been completely left off the RACs just aren't true.

I have filed for intervention in this lawsuit representing Alakanuk and Nunamiqua (ph). We've intervened to defend the case alongside the Federal Subsistence Board, particularly with the customary and traditional use determinations. We still haven't heard from the court whether intervention is going to be allowed, so we don't know if the villages are going to be able to get into the lawsuit, but we have filed for that. We've also brought a cross claim against the Federal Subsistence Board particularly on that issue of how they want to set aside 30 percent of all the RAC seats for non-subsistence interests. I'm co-counseling in this case with Heather Kendall-Miller from the Native American Rights Fund. She is representing the Native Village of Venetie Tribal Government and Ninilchik. I was directed by our executive board back in August to seek intervention in this lawsuit on behalf of tribes. There's a great deal of concern about the effect it would have if 30 percent of your seats, if 30 percent of the seats on this RAC were set aside basically for people who don't have any interest at all in subsistence. We're arguing that that 30 percent rule, applying it statewide, it's a violation of ANILCA and it's also a violation of the Administrative Procedures Act because it fails to account for a lot of variation among regions. There's a number of reasons why we believe that simply dividing up the Regional Advisory Councils in such a way that 30 percent of all the seats on any RAC anywhere in the state for non-subsistence interest is arbitrary.

I just wanted to let all of you as RAC members know about this. I've spoken with some of you about this intervention, this motion to intervene in the lawsuit on behalf of these tribes and I just wanted to address the rest of you to let you know that AVCP and these tribes are opposed to the efforts to change the composition of this Regional Advisory Council. Those are the only two things I wanted to report on today. If there's any questions, I'd be happy to take them.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Not only in Kuskokwim, also in the Yukon, the limited hour of subsistence really affected the people that we represent. As an example, I had to push hard my children to get their winter supply while the hour is open. Sometime they work in the nighttime try to finish while the weather is good. I think I was pushing them too hard. It got to where they didn't want to work on the fish anymore. It's not only my family. I used that for an example. There were some other families that stay in the camp. My camp is about 35 miles from Mountain Village downriver. It is very hard when they're doing that. When they have a meeting over in Anchorage, I was on my way to check up. I had to support lift restriction. I testified there. It is very hard for our own people that depend on and try to work on to supply for the winter. Next is Kuskokwim Native Association.

MR. NICK: Wayne Morgan is supposed to be presenting KNA's report, but he's unable to make it to this meeting, but there's a request from Frank Charles if he can report on the working group?

CHAIRMAN WILDE: We've got him on the agenda, so if there is no Kuskokwim Native Association representative here, we'll take the next one, ONC, Greg Roczicka.

MR. ROCZICKA: Mr. Chairman. For the record, my name is Greg Roczicka. I work with Orutsararmiut Native Council. I'd just like to mention I had intended to come up here with Mr. Cannon who was here earlier for KNA and we wanted to co-sponsor with our respective organizations a resolution to you earlier. You heard reports from Mr. Reardon of the refuge and I believe it was referenced in a couple other reports that you received. We do have several projects in place now that are far and away 10 times more than we ever had before. Since the monies did become available to do so and we still have a long way to go. To put that together is going to take some significant effort and we'd like to do it in a coordinated fashion. I'd like to pass out for your consideration a resolution to support our efforts in that regard. If you want, I'll just go ahead and read it into the record right now.

Whereas salmon returns to the Kuskokwim River have been in decline for more than a decade and poor returns of salmon have led to restrictions on commercial and subsistence fisheries; and whereas the Kuskokwim River salmon stocks are still in a rebuilding phase; and whereas there is an urgent need for increased fisheries research to support sustainable management of these declined salmon stocks; and whereas the Kuskokwim River region is in great need of additional fisheries research and

monitoring in order to ensure sustainable management of salmon; and whereas Kuskokwim Fisheries Resources Coalition is composed of key Native, State and Federal stakeholders including: AVCP, Kuskokwim Native Association, McGrath Native Council, Orutsararmiut Native Council, Kuskokwim Salmon Management Working Group, Alaska Department of Fish & Game, Bering Sea Fishermen's Association and the Fish and Wildlife Service. Whereas the goal of the Kuskokwim Fisheries Resources Coalition is to promote coordinated, cooperative fisheries research in the region; therefore be it resolved that the Yukon-Delta Regional Advisory Council expresses its support for the Kuskokwim Fisheries Resources Coalition to undertake research planning for the Kuskokwim River watershed. I'd offer that to you.

I won't reiterate the projects that we continue to be involved in on the river other than to say that this is our second year and things are running fairly smoothly I feel and they're learning how to incorporate the information that we are receiving more into the management process and we do have our people out on the streets right now conducting the post season subsistence harvest surveys.

I also come forward and speak directly to one major issue. Before I do I'd like to preface that with a statement that I consistently hear in meetings across the state how fortunate we are in this region that we have such a fostered and developed over time such a cooperative working relationship between the State, Federal and the local tribal entities or regional organizations. We get individuals from Southeast, Seward Peninsula, Upper Yukon, saying how in the world can you work with those State guys and you hear it with reference to some of the Federal managers as well. We do not have that here. We do have problems along the way, but to a great degree we do work not in co-management perhaps in the sense of the word that people would like to see it or the definition we'd like to see it, but we are definitely years and miles ahead of anyone else in the state as far as working under a more consensus-based approach in many of these management areas.

That being said, the situation that has arose that has culminated in the resolution that's before you from AVCP that came out of their convention and we tried to address through the special action request from ONC and KNA and essentially circumvent the situation that we now are faced with. In putting that whole process together, we had hoped that the Board could see, although I just got done saying what a very great relationship we have in these cooperative efforts, it's still a very fragile one and something of this magnitude in many people's minds goes a long ways towards tearing down years of effort.

What the Board did, in many ways, actually was comply with what our special action request was asking for, although they did it for the wrong reasons or they stated the wrong reasons on the record. When they responded to the State's request for reconsideration that contended they were going beyond their jurisdiction and did reverse their decision, the actual reason they reversed their decision was because they had further information there that the runs were coming in now and they did have information available that they felt escapement and subsistence needs would

be covered. When they granted that request, I was told by Board members that they specifically did so because of the State or their managers were unable to say to them that escapement or subsistence needs were being met. That was at the heart and that was right up front of what we were asking for. We should keep those restrictions in place until we have run indications that showed we've got adequate escapement and we can provide for subsistence. So although it got put into a context in an arena of this whole jurisdictional battle and our turf battle, if you will, which, by the way, is pretty much driven only by the Sportfish Division within the State. It's not for my perspective anyway, my perception of what I've seen and heard over the years, it's certainly not anything that's being held by the Department as a whole and it's certainly not a unanimous feeling amongst them.

With that, I have drafted up another resolution for your consideration asking that you request the Federal Subsistence Board to adopt a formal policy reflecting that they will not allow to -- well, I'll just read it. It's easier than trying to run it off the top of my head. And the result that I have here is that the Y-K Delta Regional Advisory Council strongly urges the Federal Subsistence Board to continue its compliance of its mandate to accord subsistence uses priority over all other consumptive uses by formally adopting a policy which states that non-subsistence uses will not be given de facto priority consideration through allowing their harvest opportunity to exceed closures or limitations imposed on subsistence harvest opportunity. Most especially in areas where salmon stock concerns are at the heart of the issue.

And I ask this of you for your consideration, support of this resolution and sponsorship of this resolution to the Federal Subsistence Board.

Since I did speak to just about every one of you prior to putting that special action request in last April and I think Mr. Chairman, you were the one I was able to get a hold of, and I think Mr. Thompson wasn't there yet as well, I also spoke with the Western Interior Council Chairman and read their minutes and they were totally in support of it. However, given that it had not been, in your case, formal subject of a meeting that you had called, your support was not allowed to be considered or put on the record as the Council being in support. The matter of the Western Interior Council, they were not allowed to be cited as being in favor of our special action because theirs went further, they wanted total shut down of the entire Yukon River drainage and all its tributaries so it gets into this semantic dance that they couldn't be cited as support.

SO I offer you this as well and I would ask for your consideration on it and ask you to send it forward to the Federal Subsistence Board and I will be in contact and I will -- if you choose to support it as well with your neighboring Councils for the Kuskokwim drainage to forward to the Federal Subsistence Board.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Do Council have a question to Greg.

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MR. ROCZICKA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Next on our agenda, organizational tribal representatives. Do we have a tribal representative here? If is not, Regional village council representatives. If there's no regional council village representatives we'll go down to annual report topics, Regional Advisory Council members.

Who will handle that, Alex Nick, Regional Advisory Council charter update and information.

MR. A. NICK: (In Yup'ik)

INTERPRETER: Alex Nick, Regional Advisory Council update.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: (In Yup'ik)

MR. A. NICK: (In Yup'ik)

INTERPRETER: (No interpretation.

MR. A. NICK: Yeah, for Council information (In Yup'ik)

INTERPRETER: The information's been already given to you from U.S. Fish and Wildlife handouts that have already been passed out and Yukon River and Kuskokwim Delta's subsistence.....

MR. A. NICK: There's handouts for those -- rather copies of the handouts on the table for audience out here.

(In Yup'ik)

INTERPRETER: And also, Mr. Chairman, yesterday the letter was given to you .805c letter, copy, Page 43, it's on B -- he said he made a mistake yesterday and the annual report topics.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Regional Council charter update and information.

MR. A. NICK: Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah, go ahead.

MR. A. NICK: (In Yup'ik)

INTERPRETER: Explain a little on the annual report topics Regional Advisory Council members. This annual report copy -- why Regional Advisory -- I mean Federal Subsistence Board did not take action and why, Regional Advisory Councils request -- some of the things you requested for have not been accepted by Federal Subsistence Board. For the last two years they have not -- ever since I got on you have not -- the copies have not been provided for the last two years.

MR. A. NICK: Don Rivard will assist me in explaining on number 15, of making -- maybe if we -- Mr. Chairman, it would probably be

appropriate of Mr. Rivard and I sit together at the presenter's table on this, with your permission.

(In Yup'ik)

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah, you guys could sit together.

(Laughter)

MR. A. NICK: What I'm going to do, Mr. Chairman, cover Item 15 on your agenda, Regional Advisory Council charter update and information, I will try to summarize what I say in Yup'ik and then Mr. Rivard could explain to you after I give my information to you.

As you remember in year 2000, I believe it was in March 2000, the Regional Advisory Council took action to change each title on your charter, Council charter. You wanted to change the word -- rather strike out the word, Delta in your title and replace it with Federal. We worked on that. We worked on that and we pushed that forward but unfortunately because other Regional Councils don't have the word, Federal on their title and in their charter that could not be done. And Don could explain why.

I'll interpret what I said in Yup'ik and then I will try to interpret what Don says. And also I guess that's just about all I got. Mr. Rivard, do you have anything to add to that.

MR. RIVARD: Well, I think Alex explained it real well. I don't know the particulars. We did get back word that all the charters have been approved now in Washington, D.C. Because they do go back all the way to Washington, D.C. And as Alex mentioned, the word, Federal was not included in your Council's title because for one thing -- well, I don't know all the reasons but mainly it was because it would have been the only Council that would have had the word Federal in it and it might have caused some confusion so we just wanted to make all 10 Councils basically consistent in their titles. The word Federal is not in any of the Council titles.

MS. GREGORY: Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mary.

MS. GREGORY: (In Yup'ik)

INTERPRETER: Mr. Chairman, the title is okay by me.

MS. GREGORY: It identifies who we are anyway.

INTERPRETER: Why bother with a change.

MR. A. NICK: And, also, Mr. Chairman, if you remember there were some minor changes in the suggested charter. There was explanation added on the absent members because the Council wanted whether they should be excused or not, you know, for the absent -- absences from

attendance. Those were included. I'm not sure -- I don't know if they will be in the new charter, I haven't seen the signed copy of the charter yet.

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you. Okay. Number 16 on our agenda, before I do that I need to get information, maybe Don Rivard you could -- I want to ask you before we conduct election of Regional Advisory Council, my question is term 6, five seats are ended on 2002. I still never hear, these five seats, they renewed their nomination, how this thing is going to work -- we going to wait for election after these five Council renew their seats or not.

MR. RIVARD: Mr. Chair, Don Rivard with OSM. We spoke about this a little bit earlier but just to kind of go over what the timing is now. Because of the Griles' letter in the year and then the Board coming up with different ways with the Council composition, the nominations process this year got held up in all that. And it's now going forward, this week in fact, this coming week, both the Staff committee will see the nomination packets -- they're all done, they're in our office ready to go and now they're going to go through the rest of the process which is this coming Tuesday we're going to have a meeting with the interagency Staff Committee and they're going to look over this package and then they'll make their recommendations to the Federal Board, the Federal Board is meeting on Thursday and they're going to look over this package of nominees and give their final recommendations. And then this package from the Board goes to Washington, D.C. and the Secretary's office, the Secretaries themselves have to approve who is recommended. And that takes a couple of months as well.

We anticipate that we'll be able to inform those people who have applied whether they've been chosen again this year or not sometime in December. So you'll know, hopefully by the end of the year you will know whether you -- as Tom Boyd mentioned earlier, those whose seats are up this year, you still serve through the end of this calendar year, up through December 31st. But by that time, for those of you who have reapplied, you'll know whether you've been reappointed or not. So by next Council meeting, the new members will be in place.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: So next Council meeting we will elect Regional Advisory Council officers?

MR. RIVARD: You have that option, sir. I know last week at the Western Interior meeting, what their Council and some of their members are in the same situation, in fact, their Council Chair -- all their officers were -- are in a situation where their terms are up this year and then didn't know whether they've been reappointed or not and they won't know until December. What their Council decided to do was to go ahead just renominate all their officers on their Council to stay as their officers and then if, for whatever reason, some of them aren't retained or reappointed then they would put new officers in place at their next meeting.

So you could choose now to either retain who you have or you could elect new officers.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Lester.

MR. L. WILDE: Mr. Chairman, just to speed things up, I would like to move that the officers be retained as they are until the next Council meeting at which time we will have election of officers.

MR. CHARLES: Second.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: There's a motion and a second. Any discussion from the Councils.

MR. HANSON: Question.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Question has been called for. All who favor say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Opposed say no.

(No opposing votes)

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Motion carried.

MR. HANSON: You're the chairman until next meeting.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah, okay. We still have some more on the agenda. I think we got to learn all our agenda all the time, it always be continue, adding, adding, adding without approval -- after we approve. After we approve agenda it shouldn't be added, any other businesses. So this time I'm just going to take this one because I don't know if it's important or not, Regional Council meeting briefing. I don't know who wants that. Don.

MR. RIVARD: Excuse me, I was writing something down, I didn't hear, where are we at?

MS. GREGORY: He wants you to brief us.

MR. RIVARD: On which topic?

CHAIRMAN WILDE: I don't know but it's in there.

(Laughter)

MR. RIVARD: Oh, okay, that's Mr. Tom Boyd is going to give that briefing.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay. Tom. Okay, Tom, you are on the hot water seat right now.

(Laughter)

MR. BOYD: Please turn the heat down, Mr. Chair.

(Laughter)

MR. BOYD: While Alex is passing out -- if I may start, Mr. Chair, I'm sorry.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah, you can.

MR. BOYD: Yeah. Alex is passing out a letter that we sent to all Council members in August, the date was August 27th and we wrote this -- I wrote this letter after hearing a number of concerns that have been raised about where we meet and when we meet, the scheduling of meetings. And I wanted to just air those concerns with the Council and hopefully create some dialogue with the Councils, not to try to tell you what I want to do but hear from you what you think about some of the things that we're proposing. So I want this to be a discussion and to hear from you. But I felt that if I didn't share those concerns then you wouldn't know what we were thinking and you wouldn't be able to respond.

So I wanted to open a dialogue with the Councils about the concerns that have been raised about where we meet and when we meet. Where the Councils meet and when we schedule the Council meetings.

So after reviewing the letter with Staff we realized that the letter doesn't provide sufficient background for you possibly to understand why we believe these concerns have reached such a level of importance, at least, for us.

As you're aware our program, Staff and responsibilities have increased dramatically since 1999 when we took over subsistence fishing management. Expanding into fisheries management has added enormous complexity and dramatically increased the need for additional information and decision making. As a result we've seen increased needs for communications with the Councils. We are now working regulatory with new organizations such as the Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association, new publics, other users of the resource like sportfishing and commercial fishing, transporters and guides and even our long-term working relationship with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game has changed dramatically as we now work with two additional divisions, Sportfish and Comm Fish Divisions. All of this to say that there are now more stakeholders with direct and legitimate interests to be considered as we move through the subsistence management decision making process which includes the Council meetings.

The concerns, in brief, evolve around giving the public access to the cornerstone of our process, the Regional Advisory Council meetings. The letter lays out all the concerns that have been brought to our attention and I suggest we look at some ways in which we can respond.

What I really wants a collaborative approach on resolving these concerns. Specifically I'd like us to carefully evaluate our travel to smaller communities. Having the meetings in hub areas, like Bethel, makes it easier and less expensive for everyone who must travel to meetings, that includes my Staff, other agency Staff, Council members and the public. When local issues of concern arise affecting a single village,

additional meetings in those villages, possibly with Staff and the Council Chair and some other Council members to go and hear them and address those situation. On occasion, the issues may be important enough to hold the whole Council meeting in the smaller villages where it is important to interact directly with the residents. In most instances, however, issues are more broadly based than one community.

So how can we best consider the interests of all the residents of those communities? That's the question.

Also I have 10 Council meetings that I have to schedule every time. And we have Staff members that have to travel to more than one Council meeting in more than on region. Sometimes they have to travel to three regions and therefore, more than one Council meeting per week resulting in overlap back to back meetings can create staffing problems. I can't get everyone to the meetings.

Similarly, we know it is important you have technical support that you need to be effective, i.e., all of my Staff needs to be here to brief you and answer questions. With additional fisheries responsibilities, there is a larger audience that wants to work directly with you, Fish and Game, for example.

So how can we assure that the Staff support you need is able to attend your meetings and that other agency staff who want to serve you are able to participate? One way to prevent conflicts may be to plan our meetings one year out instead of just six months like we do now. This fall we're asking each Council to indicate their desired dates for the next year. Both the meeting in February/March, those set of meetings and then the meetings next September/October as well so we can, at least, during the next meeting discuss what might be conflicts with at the winter -- or the fall meetings next year at that time six months in advance of the meetings.

Some regions will not be affected by the concerns that I raise. And those regions meetings are generally held in regional hubs. In some regions, Council Chairs and other Council members have elected to visit villages to hear specific concerns and report back to the full Council at the next public meeting.

Still in other regions, selected locations have not raised the concerns expressed in the letter due to the ease of access, i.e., they may be road-connected or there may be commercial facilities in those meetings.

We may conclude that solutions are somewhat dependent on the region. For example, one region, like Western Interior doesn't even have a regional hub so we have to think creatively there.

So in closing I'm asking that you consider the concerns that I've raised in the letter as they apply to your region and offer me the advice on how to serve the Councils and the users better.

And I would also say, again, just to sort of repeat that the two issues are meeting location and how to be more effective and

efficient and economical in selecting a meeting location and scheduling meetings. I'd like to think now one year ahead instead of just six months ahead to help us work conflicts out ahead of time if we need to.

That's all I have to say and I would be happy to engage in discussion with the Council on this.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah, Tom, some of us that we have been serving over 10 years. When we start first out -- when we start first year we were doing okay, however, that it gets to where it's continuously getting harder and harder, what this makes it harder is transportation. We have to beg and just about everything, crying before some Staff in order to get people fair transportation to the meeting, even though we are volunteer people.

It is very hard even is hard for our coordinator. Coordinator of ours, I have to work with him when our Council having a problem with the transportation. You cannot control weather, you cannot control transportation from Anchorage and stuff from here. Right here is easier to be control because they know the day and the hour instead of us to calling, calling and voluntarily we use our phone and never request for any money for replace those calls.

I think it's, Tom, it's hard for us not only hard for members and also it's hard for our coordinator because our coordinator is continuously, continuously ask sometimes that -- the paper come in all completely different like if I have to go to Aniak right now, I have to go to Anchorage first and then come back to Aniak. It don't work that way around here. If you want to save money, you go direct from here to Aniak instead of go to Anchorage and come back from Anchorage to Aniak. Some of these things, it should be work with people -- especially here for Kuskokwim and Yukon Advisory Council, I think some of those problems would be taken care of work with office here in Bethel and it would be easier.

And some things -- like sometimes we promised the village where we going to meet. After we make a vote on it and everything for the place, next meeting place going to be, from Anchorage they change it to go somewhere else. Those things are very hard. And it's a very disappointed by the villages that where we are planning to have a meeting. Sometimes we told them that I'm sorry, the things are changed and after those villages, those they prepare for us, their tribals prepare for us and they try to work among the villages, try to take care of the guests and those people -- I don't blame them, they disappointed.

Tom, all those things are, they need to be some way, some how it would be worked on so according to ANILCA we would be easier for -- too our people, you know, fill that requirement to them.

(In Yup'ik)

MS. GREGORY: Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Go ahead, Mary.

MS. GREGORY: I concur with our Chairman. Because like he said, we know what airlines are going and where and what they are doing and it's a lot easier for us to take care of our own travel from here going into our own area. For Anchorage it's fine, I can see that.

But a lot of times when that -- when everything comes out of Anchorage it gets messed up real easy and you end up paying a lot of money on the long-run by chartering people -- planes to get people here and there, you know, if you'd work with Alex Nick or Mr. Reardon's office here and have a cooperative agreement to help -- for the girls up there to help you make these arrangements, I'm sure it could be done.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Lester.

MR. L. WILDE: I take it, Mr. Boyd, that you would like to have some discussion on the subjects that you brought up, namely where the Advisory Council meetings should take place, you're suggesting that the meetings be held more in the hubs than in the smaller villages and you also stated that it's coming to your attention about the location scheduling for Regional Advisory Councils and these concerns came from Council members, Staff from the agencies and the public.

But anyway, those were your concerns. I was going to ask you if you knew who was making all the -- who was having these concerns?

Because usually when we go to a smaller community we're there because we're requested by that small community to come out to their area since as you stated in this letter, some of the decisions that have to be made are -- have to be made concerning those areas and I really don't know what kind of answer I'm going to give you but I thought maybe I better bring this Council back to the discussion of your concerns.

MR. BOYD: Mr. Chair, those are my concerns, Mr. Wilde. And when generally we're setting up a meeting like this you can see, well, not right now but yesterday there were a lot of people here. Many of those people were from a variety of agencies. And when we schedule a meeting in a smaller community we generally are flying from different places, we come through Bethel and then go out. And also the members of the Council are coming sometimes through Bethel and then out again. And the extra leg in the travel from Bethel out sometimes -- well, clearly it cost more money but also sometimes becomes more difficult to arrange and it takes more time. And it makes it more difficult for many of the people that would like to come to the meeting to not come. It makes it more difficult for them to come and sometimes they choose not to come.

And so what I'm thinking about is how do we make the meetings where you have what you need to do your job and also make it easier for everyone to travel. And maybe there's no answer, I don't know. Maybe that's the way you want it and you're telling me that. But I thought I

would at least bring these concerns to you so you would have a chance to tell me what you think, but those are my concerns, Mr. Wilde.

MR. TIKIUN: Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thadius.

MR. TIKIUN: On the window that you gave us here, presented us or on the handout on the times we're supposed to meet from February 18th to 21, I think that's one of the reasons that a lot of these board meetings overlap because we only got so much time. Is there any way to get a little broader period of time in there where, you know, some of these meetings won't be overlapping?

MR. BOYD: Mr. Tikiun, the thing that I'm proposing is that instead of just giving you the next meeting window from February to March, the next meeting window which has already been started to be filled out by a lot of the Councils, I also give you the one, the next time, too, so you can propose a date there. That way this is very tentative, the one year out. That way I can see everything one year away and we can then come back six months from now and see where we have conflicts and try to rearrange those.

MR. TIKIUN: Yeah, but then what you're going to do is hand us another one here where there is only so much time where you can try to schedule all the meetings. Is there any way to get a broader, you know, like for a little more time in there like from January sometime until March is what I'm trying to ask.

MR. BOYD: Well, over the years we've looked at that as we've looked at our whole schedule for developing -- when we developed a lot of the materials that we present to the Councils and then we have to take the Council reports back and develop the materials that then go to the Board. All of this is a big schedule and in order to have enough time to do every step in the process it's very difficult for us to create more time in this window.

What we have is five weeks here to try to fit in 10 meetings. If I gave you another week or two I would take a week or two away from another step in the process and that would be very difficult for us to do. Everything is very tight in this schedule, it's very difficult to rearrange these schedules.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Johnny Thompson.

MR. THOMPSON: Yeah, I also want to add on because some of us have different meetings and you have to try to arrange those and reschedule them and all of a sudden you hear, oh, the place where it's supposed to be is transferred to this and it makes it kind of hard and make a liar out of yourself.

(Laughter)

MR. BOYD: Mr. Chair. I would agree with Mr. Thompson and the last thing we want to do is make last minute changes. And I know we did this last time because we had conflicts with some of the key people that needed to be here. We had the Interior meetings going on in Fairbanks this week, earlier, and there was not enough time to get them from Fairbanks out here and then to go to -- I can't remember where it was scheduled.

MR. L. WILDE: Chevak.

MR. BOYD: Chevak. And then originally the Interior meeting was scheduled for Beaver so we had a lot of transportation problems with getting the right people all the way out here.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: (In Yup'ik)

INTERPRETER: Anything more from the Councils.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: If not, let's look at winter 2003 Regional Advisory Council meeting window. If you look at the sheet of paper in front of you.....

MS. GREGORY: Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah.

MS. GREGORY: Before we go into that I'd like to suspend the rules and talk about the resolutions presented to us by the ONC people and also to see how we can address the AVCP coming up here and their resolutions lifting the restrictions on subsistence fishing and other stuff.

(In Yup'ik)

MS. GREGORY: Because I don't want to leave these people hanging after they come to us for help.

MR. L. WILDE: Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Les.

MR. L. WILDE: One thing we didn't do is address the request by Mr. Boyd. I don't think there was any answers on his concerns and his suggestions on this letter. I don't think this has been addressed. Since he brought it up I feel that we should address it to some degree. I mean I don't want to totally ignore Mr. Boyd and his concerns.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: What do Councils -- we still have time tomorrow. Right now we are trying to take care of everything we have in front of us. Okay, let's take Tom Boyd first, what request -- what kind of information does he need.

MR. L. WILDE: Mr. Chairman, it's very simple, all he requested is that we make a meeting schedule for a year in advance instead of six months and that we meet in larger villages -- larger towns and not

smaller villages, that's what his request is in his letter of concerns that he presented.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Right now my understanding that we have to make meeting schedule right now?

MR. L. WILDE: Mr. Chairman, this letter is self-explanatory. He just read it to you asking to see if it's possible if we could discuss possibly having the meeting schedule for a year in advance, you know, instead of six months to schedule our meetings for the next year and also that we meet in larger villages and not small ones. That's his requests and his concerns. And I think since he came over and spent all of his valuable time to come over and talk about his concerns I think we should address them.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: I think we understand that. But make a plan for a year meeting place, I don't know. Go ahead, Tom.

MR. BOYD: Well, the idea of looking out one year is so that you could come back in your next meeting, which is six months ahead of that meeting and see if you want to make an adjustment to it. At least it gives us a plan that we can see where we have conflicts and then we can make adjustments. It's not like when you look out one year that you're firm on it right now but then as we get closer in your next meeting we can look at that next meeting and see if it's going to work.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay. I'll let Councils elaborate on this. Mary what you think?

MS. GREGORY: If he had a proposal about doing the meetings that would be a lot easier for me to decide. Right now it's just very hard for me to, at this late date, to elaborate on putting it for a year but we could make tentative agendas or tentative meeting times.

MR. MOSES: Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Go ahead, Phillip.

INTERPRETER: Our meetings and our schedules are never final and -- but yet, you know, they expect us to be here. And then also, you know, the items of concern or agenda items that they are to present sometimes they leave those behind. And then, you know, if the agenda items are presented for us and we know what we are about -- the presentation -- and it would be easier for us to deal with.

But however, you know, the participants that are to be in the meetings sometimes they do not present agenda items or do not participate because of time. And then as you can see we don't have anyone here although there might have been some people who were to present their agendas of concern or their agenda items.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah, thank you, Phillip. Alex, from looking at that, how, example, how are we going to handle that?

MR. A. NICK: Mr. Chairman. The calendar winter 2003 Regional Advisory Council meeting window shows that the possible meeting dates that you could consider without facing problem with other Staff would be between February 18 through 21st and March 4 through 7. Look like those would be a good time for YK to consider.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Go ahead, Tom.

MR. BOYD: Also March 11 -- yeah, the week of March 10th is a good one as well unless you know something I don't know, Alex.

MR. A. NICK: Yeah, week of March 10th would probably conflict with Eastern Interior where we have same Staff attending.

MR. BOYD: Thank you, I didn't think of that. That's good.

MS. GREGORY: Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mary.

MS. GREGORY: (In Yup'ik)

INTERPRETER: (No translation)

MS. GREGORY: 4 to 7 for a tentative schedule, Thursday, Friday.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah, for those of you that have other -- involving other organization, Mary asked how's March 4 or 7 or something like that.

(Pause)

MS. GREGORY: It's the early part of the month and in my church I have a big, big weekend the next weekend around the 10th so I could not attend it if it's later than that date.

MR. TIKIUN: Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thadius.

MR. TIKIUN: The 4th through the 7th would be okay with me.

MR. L. WILDE: We could discuss this March 6th -- if it's all right, Mr. Chairman, could I propose March -- it always seems -- I don't know how you feel but the weekends always seem to be a little easier to get to then week beginning, so Thursday and Friday, 6th and 7th is for the lack of wanting somebody to suggest it, I might as well do it. March 6th and 7th for the winter meeting.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: March 6 and 7.

(In Yup'ik)

INTERPRETER: (No interpretation)

CHAIRMAN WILDE: March 6 and 7.

MS. GREGORY: It's on a Thursday and Friday.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: In order to make a plan for a year we need something like that with other Council's schedule on.

(Pause)

MR. L. WILDE: For October.

MS. GREGORY: September 20.....

MR. L. WILDE: September hunting season is September hunting season, no, you don't take my meat away from me.

MS. GREGORY: Okay. Why not go to October 1 and 2.

MR. L. WILDE: Yeah, October.

MS. GREGORY: October 1 and 2.

MR. L. WILDE: No, Western Interior will be meeting September 31st and 1st and then that -- we're going to be conflicting maybe little bit with Western Interior. Staff will have to come to.....

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Lester.

MR. L. WILDE: Yeah.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Do you have a -- we need to have a copy of that to whole Council so they could look at something.

MR. L. WILDE: Okay. You going to make copies of it?

MR. RIVARD: Where do you make copies around here?

MS. GREGORY: The desk.

MR. RIVARD: Okay.

MS. GREGORY: 25 cents per page.

MR. RIVARD: 25 cents, wow.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Because it's very hard to make a plan without looking at other Advisory Committee schedules.

MR. L. WILDE: Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah, Les.

MR. L. WILDE: While we're waiting for the other calendar would it be possible to discuss the other concern that Mr. Boyd had, concerning meeting in larger villages instead of smaller ones?

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah. Councils what is your desire.

MS. GREGORY: Mr. Chairman, I'll go first.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah, Mary.

MS. GREGORY: Mr. Phillip just told us how a lot of the people who come here to listen to us or make presentations always end up going out before we done and that's what's going to happen if we continue to have it in the hub village. When we went to Tunt in the spring everybody stayed until we were done. I just wanted to bring that up.

Also the people were given a chance to know who the RACs are and what they're doing.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Johnny Thompson.

MR. THOMPSON: I would suggest there is a place where there is a copy machine or telephone so you wouldn't have to hunt for something.

MS. GREGORY: Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah.

MS. GREGORY: The host person, like Mr. Charles was our host person for March meeting in Tunt and he made sure that we met in the school where there's a lot of good stuff going on and he fed us there and we were (In Yup'ik)

INTERPRETER: (No interpretation)

MS. GREGORY: (In Yup'ik)

INTERPRETER: We have those representatives in the small villages and that's they pay very close -- they're very attentive to the guests in their village and they take care of us properly.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah, Tom, I think 10 years we have been here we just about covering up most of the villages right now. However, there are some villages complain about why we don't meeting in their village. They say that some of those proposals, what they make those proposals, they don't hear them or anything, get to them after have those big plan like right now here in the Kuskokwim we go meetings shift more like -- this time we go in Yukon, second time we go Kuskokwim but we never been -- go down to the coast area.

I don't know what would be the easier way that Council could think of -- like sometime alternate for Bethel. When we have alternate meeting at Bethel, working on proposals nobody come around. We

don't see nobody. We don't see no one but to present those proposals. That's the problem. Those proposals supposed to be used in the Yukon/Kuskokwim region area but those people they don't show up for that reason it's pretty hard to have a meeting in hug like this.

In order to bring all the good information out to the villages there should be some way to work, easier for both you and I and Councils.

MR. CHARLES: Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Charles.

MR. CHARLES: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I like meeting places, alternating like in small village and Bethel next time or alternating the places. Meet in Bethel one time, next time in the village and back to Bethel again. So villages would still have chance and we would have chance to go to villages that way.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Lester.

MR. L. WILDE: Mr. Chairman, there are two places on the Yukon River where that have direct flights going to Anchorage, that's Emmonak and St. Marys. I don't know which one of those two villages, I don't think we should just alternate between small villages and Bethel, I think there should be -- if we're going to do that we need to have a hub on the Yukon where we can have a meeting, you know, on the Yukon and the Kuskokwim, alternating those two areas.

MS. GREGORY: That's a good point Mr. Leslie.

(Laughter)

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Well, we could move our meeting Bethel, Hawaii.

(Laughter)

MS. GREGORY: (In Yup'ik)

INTERPRETER: If we are going to.....

MS. GREGORY: Let's talk about it. Put a tentative date on it and then we can change it when we.....

MR. L. WILDE: You mean for the next fall meeting?

MS. GREGORY: Yeah.

MR. L. WILDE: Next fall meeting, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah, go ahead.

MR. L. WILDE: But since we're on the discussion of the meeting in the villages, Mr. Boyd, on your concern with the smaller villages, what Harry says is true, participation in the hubs, especially Bethel is -- it's not participation of the public, in Bethel, is not -- is nothing compared to participation in the villages. We get more participation of local villagers than we do here in Bethel. And that's the reason why the idea of going to smaller villages and alternating to the larger villages has always been a good idea because of the participation of the people involved in -- the subsistence people out in the villages.

And it would be -- I would be kind of bothered by it if we just had to -- if we were dictated to hold our meetings just in the hub areas because the people that we are working for are out -- outside of the hub.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Tom.

MR. BOYD: Well, I think I've heard the Council speak loud on this and I understand and I understand the reasons why the Council wants to continue to have meetings in the smaller communities. In that regard, I think it's very critical then and I intend to honor what you've said as well. In that regard I think it's critical then that we pay closer attention to the scheduling so that we can hopefully avoid conflicts with other meetings because it will take more time and effort to get to the other communities. And if you could help me do that then I think we can work together on this.

Thank you.

MR. L. WILDE: Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah, Les.

MR. L. WILDE: Mr. Boyd, another thing that we have, we, ourselves have problems of traveling out in the village just not your Staff alone. It's we, as Council members have problems coming from Hooper Bay and trying to go to Tuntutuliak when the weather's zeroed in. So I think our problems go both ways.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Tom.

MR. BOYD: Another thing is when you mention weather and that is a concern we have as well and it would be good and I think you've done this in the past where when we've been weathered in we've had sometimes to postpone meetings when people have already traveled and then we have to send them back home and we have no meeting and it would be good sometimes if we had a back up location to meet if that's possible. It may not even be possible to do it that way but sometimes you could pull a meeting together in Bethel after everyone's traveled and you're stuck here, if you understand what I'm saying.

MR. L. WILDE: I don't know -- Mr. Chairman, I don't know if you know this but that's been our policy, that if we don't meet in

any of the smaller villages that we revert back to Bethel. But I think it should be -- if we're going to have to -- if we're going to be meeting in the hubs I think we should meet at least, alternate between the Yukon hub and the Kuskokwim hub that way both rivers that we represent have an idea or have a better -- a chance to also attend the meetings in the regions that we serve.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Councils, (In Yup'ik)

MR. McCANN: (In Yup'ik)

INTERPRETER: (No interpretation)

MR. McCANN: The schedule should be talked about a little bit. Trying to find before the start of the meeting and we can't find the airline that goes there, how many times I mean a week or something like that. Sometimes we using one airline and it doesn't run for a couple three days or something like that, we end up getting stuck. Can we talk about that a little bit.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Go ahead, Alex.

MR. A. NICK: We try to consider that, Mr. McCann when we do your travel itineraries. What coordinators do, not only myself but other coordinators, what they do is they submit suggested travel itinerary to our Staff in Anchorage and then they submit that to Omega. And usually we try to use the airline like Grant Aviation or Era for Tuntutuliak, Toksook Bay area because they have more flights on a daily basis.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Tom.

MR. BOYD: I was just going to say, Mr. Chair, I'm satisfied with the discussion that we've had about where to meet and I feel like we can work with the Council on that policy.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay, I think we have to prepare for the winter meeting right now. We had schedule for the meeting in Chevak instead of here right now. If we didn't have meeting here we would be meeting at Chevak and those people was really disappointed. They say that we do all we can, work together with our teachers, with our people and you guys didn't come around after you guys have a promise. Well, I didn't have no choice to how I should tell them, I -- what I tell them, I'm sorry, we vote on it, we plan on it but from the office at Anchorage the schedule meeting was changed so I couldn't say really nothing.

I think at this time we should try to cover up that, like we do all the time if we couldn't have a meeting at that day and that time in that village, you guys remember we always try to work it out and have a meeting in the wintertime, something like that.

Mary.

MS. GREGORY: Mr. Chairman, I move that we have our winter meeting on March 6 and 7th in Chevak, 2003.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: There's a motion on the floor to have a meeting at Chevak March 6 and 7.

(In Yup'ik)

MR. THOMPSON: Second it for discussion.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Uh?

MR. THOMPSON: Second it for discussion.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Question.

MR. THOMPSON: Question.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: You.....

MS. GREGORY: (In Yup'ik)

INTERPRETER: (No interpretation)

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay. There's a motion been seconded for discussion. Councils.

MR. L. WILDE: Mr. Chairman, can I ask and confirm the fact that there are flights out of Chevak on Saturday, right, Leo? All three airlines coming in?

MR. MOSES: Yes. The one, they have only one flight on Saturdays in the mornings, but the other two, like Hagelund and Grant, flies more times. Depending on the weather and people, like they have to go -- sometimes -- most of the time they have two flights -- all of these airlines have two flights a day all in one day, there's about six airplanes on the airport all at the same time. It's busy in the winter. And they have extra, too, depending on how many people.

MS. GREGORY: (In Yup'ik)

INTERPRETER: Well, yes, air transportation is covered very well.

MS. GREGORY: That's for our Staff to remember.
(Laughter)

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Tom, if the meetings, we approve 6 and 7 at Chevak, you ever been Chevak before?

MR. BOYD: No, Mr. Chair -- actually I have landed in Chevak once, that's true and then went on to Kipnuk.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: I think it is appropriate to have a meeting at Chevak. Why, there are three villages around Chevak. If you

have a meeting at Chevak they could come over by snowmachine, if they have a dog team, they could come by dog team. They is not really far apart, Chevak, Hooper Bay, Scammon Bay.....

MS. GREGORY: (In Yup'ik)

CHAIRMAN WILDE:even Nunamiqua, end of the world could come over.

(Laughter)

MR. L. WILDE: Question.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Question's been called. All who favor say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Opposed say no.

(No opposing votes)

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Motion carried. We'll have a meeting at Chevak, winter meeting.

MR. L. WILDE: Mr. Chairman, the fall meeting as presented there's it looks like September 30 and October 1st is Western Interior and October 9th and 10th is at Beaver for Eastern Interior. We kind of need a suggestion for what dates to have our meeting.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah, Councils, if we do it on moose season, hunting season some of us we will not come over for sure. Because that's the time you try to get the meat and go out hunting. So I don't know what month we would -- so Alex, what part of these would be more available.

MR. A. NICK: Mr. Chairman, in reviewing the fall 2003 Regional Advisory Council meeting, I'm not sure if this is the most updated copy but seems to me October 6 through October 10th will be good for.....

MR. L. WILDE: You have Beaver -- Eastern Interior is going to be meeting October 9 and 10th.

MR. A. NICK: It seems to me that it's very difficult looking at the calendar.

MR. TIKIUN: Mr. Chairman, what about October 2 and 3, just a couple days ahead, you know. What about 3 and 4, Friday and Saturday.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: October 3 and 4. Tom, how about October 3 and 4, Friday and Saturday.

MS. GREGORY: (In Yup'ik)

INTERPRETER: (No interpretation)

MR. BOYD: Mr. Chair, we have done meetings with other Councils on the weekend on Saturday and that's doable, yes, we can do that.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: So I'd like to ask the Council, that October 3 and 4, it's okay with you or not?

MS. GREGORY: (In Yup'ik)

MR. McCANN: (In Yup'ik)

INTERPRETER: (No interpretation)

CHAIRMAN WILDE: (In Yup'ik)

INTERPRETER: If you want those two days one of you have to make a motion to.....

MR. L. WILDE: Mr. Chairman, I'd like to move that October 3 and 4 be the fall meeting and meeting be held at St. Mary's unless otherwise -- unless something else comes up since St. Mary's is a direct flight out of Anchorage and it's sort of a hub on the Yukon River, St. Mary's alternative with Bethel would be, I think, a good idea. So I suggest the winter meeting -- the fall meeting in October be held at St. Mary's with the concurrence of the people of St. Mary's.

MR. CHARLES: Second the motion, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: That's your motion Lester?

MR. L. WILDE: Yes, it is.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: October 3 and 4 for fall meeting, there was a motion and a second by James Charles. Discussion.

MR. HANSON: Question.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Question been called for. All who favor say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Oppose say no.

(No opposing votes)

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Motion carried. October 3 and 4 will be fall meeting. Tom.

MR. BOYD: That's all from me, Mr. Wilde. Thank you very much.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah, Tom, you really surprise me see you here because we always appreciate your supporting when we go to a big town and you're attitude seems to me hardly change even though there's a lot of trouble.

(Laughter)

CHAIRMAN WILDE: And we thank you and glad to have you here in Bethel.

MR. BOYD: I can say the same for you, Mr. Chair. And I've always appreciated working with you. Thank you very much.

MS. GREGORY: Mr. Chairman, I'd like to suspend the rules before we go out of here to have a response to ONC and AVCP concerns regarding the fishing schedules being imposed on us in Bethel.

(In Yup'ik)

INTERPRETER: (No interpretation)

CHAIRMAN WILDE: There's a motion on the floor to suspend the rules. (In Yup'ik)

MS. GREGORY: (In Yup'ik)

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Go over this, what they present. (In Yup'ik) Who second it.

MR. L. WILDE: I second it.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Second by Lester. Discussion.

MR. HANSON: Question.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah, question. All who favor say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Oppose same sign.

(No opposing votes)

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Motion carried. Orutsararmiut, will you come forward here, front.

MR. ROCZICKA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, did you want me to expand a little bit or read it into the record or what's your pleasure.

MR. L. WILDE: Read it into the record.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah, read it into our record.

MR. ROCZICKA: Well, since you're giving me the chance I will, actually. And one more item, in dealing with this proposal and then the State's request for reconsideration, one of the main points that they hinged that request on was that they felt that the Board's action was not in

compliance with Section .815 of ANILCA which says that there has to be a significant conservation concern in restricting any given user group.

I would put it to you, Mr. Chairman, here that it constitutes a major conservation concern given that it's jeopardizing the working relationship that's in place in addition to the unanswered questions on the impacts of sport and commercial activities within the spawning areas. Those questions were never addressed by the Federal Subsistence Board and until such time as they can be addressed, I think it behooves the Board to take this preventive action and we've seen as well in many other areas of the State, the ability of sport and commercial activities to proliferate in very short order, those concerns are not addressed this, it's a proactive measure and I think it also falls directly within the Board's purview to deal with that.

The bottom line, of course, is in our request we are asking, and the special action request that we put forward, we didn't ask to completely remove that activity and we asked that only such restrictions be in place until such time as the run returns came in and numbers to justify accommodating all uses. But again, the bottom line of this, if people thought the Barrow ducking (ph) was a big deal, that resolution that came in front of you from AVCP shows the total disgust and frustration that people are having here and it'll put the Barrow ducking to shame.

So for the record, the resolution that I've submitted to you is that the YK-Delta Regional Subsistence Advisory Council on October 11 of '02;

Whereas, certain salmon populations in the YK Delta region that are highly utilized for subsistence purposes have been determined to be stocks of concern and subject to rebuilding plans which have led to substantial restriction and disruption of subsistence and harvest activities.

And whereas, allowing sport, commercial and recreational fishing opportunity to occur seven days a week while subsistence opportunity is curtailed by practically 50 percent adds insult to injury in the minds of many for meaningful recognition of the subsistence priority.

And whereas, allowing non-subsistence uses unfettered access in the face of severe restrictions to subsistence opportunity significantly jeopardizes a very fragile cooperative working relationship developed through years of arduous effort by tribal, State and Federal entities involved, it is often referred to as being the best in Alaska following the jurisdictional turmoil that resulted from the McDowell Decision.

And whereas, in June of 2002 and in response to a special action request by Orutsararmiut Native Council and Kuskokwim Native Association, which we would like all documents incorporated here by

reference, the Federal Subsistence Board limit sport, recreational fisheries under their jurisdiction in the Kuskokwim drainage when managers could not assure them that escapement or subsistence needs would be met.

And whereas, under a request for reconsideration filed by the State of Alaska for different administration purposes the Federal Subsistence Board reversed its decisions when managers were able to state with some confidence that it appeared subsistence and escapement goals would be achieved.

And whereas, it should not be incumbent on area residents, organizations or the managing entities to devote their valuable time and limited resources to this issue of pursuing a special action on this issue on an annual basis.

Now, therefore be it resolved that the YK-Delta Regional Advisory Council strongly urges the Federal Subsistence Board to continue with compliance of its mandate to accord subsistence uses priority over all other consumptive uses by formally adopting a policy which states that non-subsistence uses will not be given de facto priority consideration through allowing harvest opportunity that exceeds closures or limitations imposed on subsistence harvest opportunity and most especially in areas where salmon stocks of concern are the heart of the issue.

And be it further resolved that determination of sufficient run strength return to relax or remove any restrictions be made by the Federal in-season manager.

Mr. Chairman, thank you.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Thank you.

MR. L. WILDE: Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Lester.

MR. L. WILDE: Mr. Chairman, I move that we support resolution -- what's the name of your organization?

MS. GREGORY: Orutsararmiut.....

MR. L. WILDE: There you go.

MS. GREGORY:Council.

MR. L. WILDE: Resolution -- I guess it doesn't have a number on it.

MR. ROCZICKA: I did not give it a number and a title, I put it forth to you as language for you to take as you see fit and support or change or whatever you may choose to do and I stand ready to.....

MR. L. WILDE: Mr. Chairman, my motion is to support it as he wrote it, as written.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Is there a second to the motion.
MS. GREGORY: Second.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Second by Mary. Discussion.

MR. TIKIUN: Question.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Question been called for -- all --
oh, Tom.

MR. BOYD: I do not wish to -- Mr. Chair, I do not wish to suggest what the Council should do with regard to this resolution. However, I feel a responsibility to at least provide a perspective to you regarding the resolution that Mr. Roczicka has presented to you, the Federal Subsistence Board did act, certainly on a special action request from Mr. Roczicka organization this summer and then reversed on it a he has said but there is a reason for the Board's action.

We did not come here to this meeting prepared to address this issue but feel that the Council would benefit before it acts from hearing why the Board acted and then reversed on its action that the ONC brought to us. And so I guess I would ask the Council maybe to table the motion, if you wish, and again I'm not suggesting you should or you should not but I would ask that the Council table the motion until we've had a chance to present to you another perspective on this issue.

Still, again, I'm not telling you what to do, I'm not even suggesting that what you're doing is wrong, I'm just saying there's some additional information you may wish to consider before you act on this.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Tom, what you mean is Council should get background information some of these things before we support them, oppose them?

MR. BOYD: Yes, Mr. Chair, that's what I'm suggesting and we could provide that to you in your next Council meeting. Obviously we did not come with that information to share with you but we could have Staff prepared to share with you the Board's reasoning behind their decision and then you would have a full -- all the information in front of you before you acted.

MS. GREGORY: Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mary.

MS. GREGORY: On the therefore be it resolved, I don't see any problem. It just urges the Federal Subsistence Board to continue with compliance of its mandate to accord subsistence users, subsistence be priority rather than recreational and sportfishermen which everybody knows is happening here. We're not blind, we know what's going on. And even though I respect you, I'm going to vote the way I feel.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Greg.

MR. ROCZICKA: Mr. Chairman, I certainly wouldn't want to try to debate the issue. I sat at that meeting and I feel I have a very

good idea why the Federal Subsistence Board voted the way it did. My question, I guess, would be should it even go forward to another meeting, how does that fall into the whole process and then saying it's too late to be developed into incorporation for the next fishing season.

MS. GREGORY: Yeah, that's my concern, too, I think we need to start planning for these things way ahead of time. Because in the Yup'ik culture, we always put a band-aid on or something that's going on, I think this is a good form of planning. It doesn't mean that we -- it's not meant to be a negative thing. It's something that's supposed to be a good for everybody thing.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Mary, I didn't understand what you're saying there, so what what's the Council -- I hear you say that if we are going to still support it or we are going to defer it until get more study?

MR. L. WILDE: Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Lester.

MR. L. WILDE: I agree with Mary, I don't see anything in here, the now therefore be it resolved that the Yukon/Kuskokwim Delta RAC strongly urges the Federal Subsistence Board to continue with compliance of its mandate to accord subsistence priority over all consumptive uses by formally adopting a policy which states that non-subsistence users will not be given de facto priority consideration through allowing harvest opportunity that -- you should use my kind of language -- but anyway, opportunity that exceeds closer or limitations imposed on subsistence harvest opportunity.

That's what I'm going to vote yes on.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: The motion is what?

MS. GREGORY: Support (In Yup'ik)

INTERPRETER: (No interpretation)

MR. L. WILDE: Second.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: There is a motion on the floor to support ONC resolution and it's been second. Discussion.

MR. TIKIUN: Question.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Question been called for. All who favor say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Opposed say no.

(No opposing votes)

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Motion carried.

MS. GREGORY: (In Yup'ik)

CHAIRMAN WILDE: (In Yup'ik)

INTERPRETER: (No interpretation)

CHAIRMAN WILDE: (In Yup'ik)

INTERPRETER: It doesn't have a number.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah, I think.....

INTERPRETER: Maybe if it did have a number.....

CHAIRMAN WILDE:when you do have some papers to like this to support, it should be just written the way it's supposed to be. You know, some of us that -- if it's going to be a resolution it should be a resolution with the complete.

MS. GREGORY: Mr. Chairman, I'd like to put a 02-01 as a number for the resolution by form of a motion.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay. Alex.

MR. A. NICK: Mr. Chairman, question now is probably appropriate whether or not if ONC passed this resolution?

MR. ROCZICKA: Mr. Chairman, as I stated earlier, is presented to you by ONC to adopt as your resolution from this Council.

MR. TIKIUN: But, Mr. Chairman, I think his question was was this adopted by ONC, why doesn't it have a resolution number?

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah.

MR. ROCZICKA: It is not a resolution adopted by ONC, it is a resolution presented by ONC to your Council by ONC staff. I see where you're getting at, if it actually went to Council and was adopted as a resolution by the ONC Council, no, sir it was not. It was a follow-up that I was given in a very clear directive from my Council that I should do everything in my power as the director of the natural resource department to address this issue that they feel is directly to the heart and soul of their subsistence community.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Alex.

MR. A. NICK: Mr. Chairman, in that case then I think the Regional Council should consider Tom's suggestion to wait on this resolution.

MS. GREGORY: Mr. Chairman, I still stand where I stand because it happened to us this summer. And I'm sorry I feel this way

but that's a whole lot of people feel like me, we see these people, like some guy last week told me, some guy was shooting in the dark and they came out with big antlers of moose and there was no meat in the boat. These things happen, people come and tell me these things. And I know what happened last summer.

(In Yup'ik)

But there's things we can get and there's things we can't get so it's one of those things that me, as a Council member and as a representative of this area, I want this thing to go to the Federal Subsistence Board which are supposed to work for my interests.

MR. TIKIUN: Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah.

MR. TIKIUN: I don't think we need to discuss this any further, we already voted on this issue here.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Uh-huh.

MR. TIKIUN: I think the next issue is this one here now.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay.

MR. TIKIUN: Thank you.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: And I would like to request this from Orutsararmiut, next time if you give us a paper, make sure it's properly done everything on it, supposed to be there, we would appreciate it.

MR. ROCZICKA: I take that to heart, Mr. Chairman, and again this is an attempt to take a proactive response to the resolution that came out of AVCP convention yesterday.

Thank you.

MS. GREGORY: The second one.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Second one.

MR. ROCZICKA: Yes, Mr. Chairman, I've read that one into the record already and I'd be repeating myself, I guess. But there is a need for us to sit down with the cooperators, both State and Federal and tribal entities involved and look towards a long term research plan within the Kuskokwim River drainage. It's kind of an opportune time to do it. We're also working through other government entities with EPA and individual, USDA to develop a watershed drainage plan to hopefully maintain the integrity and the habitat and the resources within the Kuskokwim River drainage so it would fall very well within that whole effort as well. And as a resolution of this sort will go a long ways towards helping to obtain funding to help put this effort forward and carry it through over the coming year.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: This one, I know I understand that this will be completely change in front of Board member because of requires any resolution or any proposal, it requires a background check by Staff, so it's up to the Board how they going to handle, even we support it we want you to understand there will be some change when it get to there.

We got that letter there and already read, what is the desire of the Council.

MR. TIKIUN: Mr. Chairman, I think this was brought up by one of the people that were giving a report earlier. I think they said that they were seeking funding already for getting research done in this area here.

MR. ROCZICKA: This would be the support resolution for the presentation that was given by Mr. Reardon on the Kuskokwim fisheries resource coalition.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Greg, I'm having a little bit problem, maybe that you could understand, when I look at this one it's not resolution because there's no -- just a recommendation, seems to me because it don't have anything to work with the numbers and the date and all that, if it's approved by your Council and all that or if it's come from other organization, if it's supporting paper, it should be written as a supporting paper.

MR. ROCZICKA: I will take that to heart in the future, Mr. Chairman. At present I have this one before you and I don't have a laptop or computer with me to change it.

MR. TIKIUN: Mr. Chairman, I'd like to suggest that we table this one to the next meeting.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: There's a motion on the floor to table this until the next meeting, is there any second.

MS. GREGORY: I'll second it and I'll read it into the record what we're tabling.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Go ahead, Mary.

MS. GREGORY: Resolution of support for the Kuskokwim fisheries resource coalition to undertake research planning for the Kuskokwim River.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Motion has been and a second, other discussion.

MS. GREGORY: Question, please.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Question has been called for. All who favor say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Oppose say no.

(No opposing votes)

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Motion carried. Thank you, Greg.

MR. ROCZICKA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

MS. GREGORY: Mr. Chairman, I would like to suspend the rules again one more time and talk about the AVCP resolutions that were presented to us, not by him but by oral reports given.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: AVCP here. Is there someone from AVCP here?

MS. GREGORY: (In Yup'ik)

CHAIRMAN WILDE: So what you going to do while he not here?

MS. GREGORY: They already presented to us -- can I talk about this, can you give me the chance to talk about it?

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah, go ahead. Yeah, go ahead if you want to.

MS. GREGORY: Okay. They talked about making a resolution to (In Yup'ik)

INTERPRETER: (No interpretation)

MS. GREGORY: They have a resolution lifting the salmon schedules for the summer, for this summer. (In Yup'ik)

INTERPRETER: (No interpretation)

MS. GREGORY: Because I represent AVCP, even, I'm an at-large member, I feel that I represent the Native people and their way of life. (In Yup'ik)

INTERPRETER: (No interpretation)

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Second to the motion.

MS. GREGORY: (In Yup'ik)

MR. THOMPSON: Second.

INTERPRETER: (No interpretation)

CHAIRMAN WILDE: That's why I request for a second.
(In Yup'ik)

INTERPRETER: (No interpretation)

CHAIRMAN WILDE: (In Yup'ik)

INTERPRETER: (No interpretation)

MR. MOSES: (In Yup'ik)

MS. GREGORY: (In Yup'ik)

CHAIRMAN WILDE: (In Yup'ik)

MS. GREGORY: (In Yup'ik)

INTERPRETER: (No interpretation)

MS. GREGORY: Eric Johnson has a copy of it. I think he gave one to somebody.

MR. TIKIUN: Mr. Chairman, what it is, basically the resolution we just passed a little earlier, it's the same thing, just ONC's got one and AVCP's got one, it's the same thing.

MS. GREGORY: Okay. I move to support both AVCP and ONC then, resolutions, regarding schedule time for commercial -- subsistence fishing.

MR. L. WILDE: Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah, there was a motion on the floor and second.

MR. L. WILDE: Mr. Chairman, I can't vote for the motion, I don't have that resolution in front of me. In order for me to make any decision I need to see the words so I can weigh them in my head before I make a motion so if we don't have the resolution on there I'm not going to support it.

MR. A. NICK: Mr. Chairman. What if we read the resolution to you?

MR. L. WILDE: Well, the thing is we've always worked with documents that are before us, not with what's being put into our ears. I think from now on whenever anybody makes a resolution and asking for our support, that they should make enough copies so that we are able to look at them.

MR. A. NICK: Mr. Chairman. We apologize that we didn't have copies of these resolutions from ONC and AVCP due to the fact that, you know, they did not give us copy of that before the meeting. They were just made available to you during the presentation. And AVCP gave us only three copies of the resolution at the end of their meeting.

MR. L. WILDE: In that case, Mr. Chairman, I think the maker of the motion for support should withdraw it and we can table the resolution until they learn to give us the documents.

(Pause)

MR. THOMPSON: Seconded.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: You withdraw your motion?

MS. GREGORY: I guess I am forced to withdraw my motion.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Second motioner, you withdraw. (In Yup'ik)

MR. THOMPSON: (Nods affirmatively)

INTERPRETER: (No interpretation)

(Pause - motion to support AVCP withdrawn)

MS. GREGORY: (In Yup'ik)

INTERPRETER: (No interpretation)

MS. GREGORY: I don't know why I'm defending it but that's what's happening. They just made that resolution last night or sometime today when they were talking about it. So they're in the same time constraints like we are so that's why they didn't provide us with copies.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay. We could -- Greg, it would be okay if we take this on the next meeting or not?

MR. L. WILDE: That was AVCP, that's a different one.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Oh, this is different one.

MR. L. WILDE: Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah, Les.

MR. L. WILDE: For the record, I'd like the recording secretary to note that the resolution or the motion that was prior to this has been withdrawn both by the motion maker and the second.

MS. GREGORY: Do not confuse. Do not confuse, okay, I will -- this motion I made was to support AVCP, not ONC)

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay.

MR. ROCZICKA: Yes, Mr. Chairman, I was going to make that same distinction as well. That resolution that you have before you is substantially different than the one that we put forward, that I drafted on behalf of ONC to put forward to you for your -- to adopt or not under this Council and that resolution that I put forward was in response to what I consider to be a proactive measure, hopefully that can diffuse what is laid out in AVCP's resolution.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay.

(Pause)

CHAIRMAN WILDE: We still have -- before we -- board meeting in Anchorage on May 13 and 14, we were there when they're making -- working on proposals in Anchorage, what is happened, those proposals, when they do -- working on the proposals, there's some proposals -- they don't go over or they don't talk about it because they call it consent agenda. They put it on consent agenda and these proposals are Staff Committee's and when they do this, everybody agree with the proposals so when everybody agree with the proposals they don't have a discussion, separate discussion to discuss it. They approve it because everyone agree with, State agree with, Staff agree with Yukon/Kuskokwim or other Council agree with so this -- these are the ones that, like example, here Proposal WP02-01 it's on your book, Council, Page 23, it's in there -- just information -- this is information.

Craig Fleener, he put proposal 01 Fort Yukon request black bear and brown bear is classified as a furbearer, the Board reject that proposal. And recommended by the majority of the Regional Advisory Council and the legal jurisdiction issue and that how they work, they discussed it -- they -- after -- even though they rejected, they explain and they say that except for the article of handcraft made from the fur from black bear, the purchase of barter of any part of the bear is appropriate in Alaska or State regulation. Even though they rejected, the proposal was classified both brown and black bear furbearer, the Board did adopt it following regulation language, that's what they did which allowed the sale of handcraft made from the black bear fur align with the State because the State had -- already had that on their regulation.

And also they approve 28A, Quinhagak regulation and the Board adopt that. They did consult with Staff Committee and the Yukon/Kuskokwim Subsistence Regional Advisory Council recommend they approve -- we recommend.

However, Board also adopt another Native Village of Quinhagak request Kilbuk Caribou Herd be considered part of Mulchatna Herd. So their request on this proposal to request the Federal Subsistence Board to establish the August 1, March 31 caribou season in remaining of Unit 18 south of Kuskokwim Board do adopt that, consult with Staff and hearing Yukon/Kuskokwim-Delta Subsistence Regional Council recommendation.

However the Pete Peterson from Mountain Village, WP-29, Pete Peterson submit a proposal from Mountain Village requesting early moose hunting season August 20, September 20 in remainder of Unit 18, the Board reject this. There is reason for reject this. They consult with Staff and recommendation was come from Western Interior Regional Advisory Council and interagency Staff Committee, although the Yukon/Kuskokwim-Delta Regional Advisory Council recommend to defer resolution 29 adoption and proposed season, would not provide additional subsistence opportunity, would disadvantage the local hunters where they are because they were on the -- working on their subsistence fishing on August. The Board action does not preclude Pete Peterson and/or Regional Advisory Council from submitting

new proposal during the next cycle. I think that's the reason that, Tom, they going to work on this one at the Anchorage meeting, this coming meeting?

(Pause)

MR. RIVARD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Don Rivard with the Office of Subsistence Management. We're talking about Proposal No. 31 from last cycle?

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yes, that's right. Yes. I mean, I'm sorry, 29. 29, that submit by Pete Peterson Mountain Village, he want to hunting on earlier season.

MR. RIVARD: Yeah, as the letter stated here, the Board rejected that proposal.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Uh-huh.

MR. RIVARD: Yeah.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: That's the one.

MR. RIVARD: Yeah.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: And also Proposal 30, submitted by Western Interior Regional Advisory Council, Advisory Council requested the Federal Subsistence Board potlatch provision in Unit 21 and 24 similar to State regulation. I'm try to go over this because I want to make sure that we do submit and how the Council work on our proposal. Our proposal sometime, most of time, in 10 year we hardly rejected. Most of time they always approve by the Board, Subsistence Board, so whenever there is a proposal it allows be make sure that that proposal is written right so you would -- so they wouldn't work on it so long. However, Proposal 30 as recommend by the Yukon/Kuskokwim Subsistence Regional Advisory Council, the Western Interior Advisory Council, Alaska Department of Fish and Game with modified, adopt the modification were one change regulatory wording from Alaska Native to rural Alaska. So add language taken does not violate recognition principal. Is that the way it says?

MR. RIVARD: Recognized, yeah.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah, recognized principal wildlife conservation which is add conservation mandate of ANILCA.

And again, last one, Proposal 31, submitted by Pete Peterson of Mountain Village request in revising customary trade use determination in Unit 21 to include Lower Yukon villages. Board they didn't reject this, however Board's recommend by Interior Advisory Committees and the Staff, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game all of the Yukon/Kuskokwim-Delta Advisory Council recommend supporting this proposal 31 with modification, the Board concluded that more information was needed and the customary traditional use determination for the villages listed on this

Proposal 31, the Staff was directed to conduct research information need and analysis to Proposal -- to find out more -- to find out more about the use of proposal area by the lower Yukon villages.

MR. RIVARD: And Mr. Chair, I can give you an update on what's happening with that proposal if you so desire.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Okay.

MR. RIVARD: Don Rivard, Office of Subsistence Management. This topic regarding moose in Unit 21(E) will be discussed next week, although it's not a main topic I think it's going to be brought up next week in Aniak at their moose management planning meeting and, I believe you're attending that as well, Mr. Chair. And then our office has scheduled a meeting on October 29th and 30th in our office in Anchorage where two members of this Council, two members of the Western Interior Council and I believe one or two members of the Seward Penn Council will be there as well as the representatives from TCC and AVCP to start discussing this as Chairman Mitch Demientieff, he made a commitment that this would be the process to get people together to start talking about it and identify the issues and then to hopefully get to some resolution in the future.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah, this is why I go over to that, just to let you know we don't make no proposal -- a lot of time some of our people say, we make proposal and go right into trash can, it don't. It don't -- everything that we approve here in advisory committee sure they go to the Board and the Board they have procedure to work on the proposals and some time they reject, not very often they reject it but most of time they supporting it.

Here's what the Board say.

The Board looks forward to continue and expanding relationship with the Yukon/Kuskokwim Delta Subsistence Advisory Council and the residents residing in the communities you represent.

That's why I try to give this information so our people and our Council will know we do -- we do our best to work and work with the Board.

Thank you.

MR. RIVARD: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

MS. GREGORY: Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Yeah, Mary.

MS. GREGORY: Since we didn't have no reading of the minutes, they were supposed to go get them, I guess we have to approve them next time -- next meeting.

MR. L. WILDE: Mr. Chairman, Mr. Alex Nick told me that since the transcript is long and it takes extra time to listen to the whole transcript, the minutes probably or the corrections won't be -- or the information that we requested from him will not be due shortly until the time he's able to come back from Anchorage whenever that time is, next year maybe.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Alex, go ahead.

MR. A. NICK: Yeah, Alex Nick, Regional Council coordinator. Yes, that is correct, Mr. Lester Wilde. In order for me to go back and listen to the tapes for March 6 and 7 it will take me at least one-half day to figure out when -- exactly when Mary turned the Chair over to Harry Wilde when he arrived sometime during the day and especially because it's not reflected in the transcripts. It's difficult to figure out only as suggested by the Regional Council members, I would have to sit down and listen to tapes that Tina sent me. And to be honest with you, some of those tapes are very hard to make out because some of them are very low, I couldn't even hear what discussions are in some of the tapes. So I apologize for that part.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: So then we'll approve it next meeting. We did already establish the date and time and a place of meeting for this coming meeting and date and time of next meeting. Only thing is left now is closing comment from the Chair.

I think I gave my comment already, the problems we have. It's not the first time that we have traveling problems. It has been problem just about ever since we start off and on. And I'd like to hear from Council members closing comment right now. Mary.

MS. GREGORY: (In Yup'ik)

INTERPRETER: I'm thankful for having the meeting here in Bethel. We had some people that came and represented their agencies. And Alex Nick, at least let us know ahead of time where and when to meet and she's thankful for that. And then the Convention -- also the Convention, the AVCP Convention, they have a tribal president now for the whole region.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Other comments from Council members.
(In Yup'ik)

INTERPRETER: (No translation)

MR. MOSES: (In Yup'ik)

INTERPRETER: He was going to say something earlier and you all know me, who I am he knows himself as well. And sometimes, you know, it is difficult for me to come but yet, you know, I try as much as I can to learn as well as to provide consultation to everyone but, yet, you know, I thank every one. And I thank for reaching up to this day. Sometimes, you know, he is a little perturbed about himself because the don't understand the English language and he's also appreciative of Alex, the coordinator to call him by phone before the meeting begins or before -- or when the agenda is set and where and how to get there.

So and he's appreciative of how everything goes.

And they told me that my flight would be leaving tomorrow so he knows exactly what the schedule is and so the airplane is bringing him home, so.....

(Laughter)

.....bring him home, too, up to the Yukon area.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Any other Council members comments. If its not, we go to Staff, do you have a closing comment.

MR. BOYD: Well, I believe one compliment deserves another and I want to thank the Council for patience with us as we've struggled with you to deal with these issues and for me, it's been a long time since I've visited your Council, it's been too long and I really enjoy visiting with all of you and getting to know you. Thank you very much for the kind generosity and welcome spirit that I've felt here.

Thank you.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Tom, we also thank you that you make it over here. Other Staff.

MR. A. NICK: I thank the rest of the OSM Staff for assisting us and also we thank other people who are here, like Glenn from BIA Staff Committee and all other villages and Barbara and everybody. We thank all of you for making our job a little easier.

Thank you very much.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: If there is no other, our closing time is now. We had the date and meeting place, where we're going to meet for this coming meeting, it will be in Chevak, alternate always be Bethel. So this time we are ready for adjourn.

I'm going to ask Johnny Thompson close our meeting with prayer. John Thompson.

MR. THOMPSON: (Prayer In Yup'ik)

Let's say Our Father in English.

(Our Father Prayer - by All)

MS. GREGORY: Have a nice safe trip home everybody.

MR. L. WILDE: Mr. Chairman, I move to adjourn the meeting.

MR. CHARLES: Second.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: Second. All who favor say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

of tired.

CHAIRMAN WILDE: We're adjourned. My tongue is kind

(END OF PROCEEDINGS)₁

C E R T I F I C A T E

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA)

)ss.

STATE OF ALASKA

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I, Joseph P. Kolasinski, Notary Public in and for the State of Alaska and reporter for Computer Matrix Court Reporters, LLC, do hereby certify:

THAT the foregoing pages numbered 114 through 240 contain a full, true and correct Transcript of the YUKON-KUSKOKWIM DELTA FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL, VOLUME II, taken electronically by **Salena Hile** on the 11th day of October 2002, beginning at the hour of 9:00 o'clock a.m. in Bethel, Alaska;

THAT the transcript is a true and correct transcript requested to be transcribed and thereafter transcribed by under my direction and reduced to print to the best of our knowledge and ability;

THAT I am not an employee, attorney, or party interested in any way in this action.

DATED at Anchorage, Alaska, this 28th day of October 2002.

Joseph P. Kolasinski
Notary Public in and for Alaska
My Commission Expires: 04/17/04

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